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BIRTHS.

On the 15th inst., at Hongkong, the wife of F. J. HAYER, DROEZE, Consul-General for the Netherlands, of a son. [1639]

On the 18th inst., at Mount Austin Hotel, the wife of W. PESTALOZZI, of a son. [1660]

At 135, Wanchai Road, Hongkong, on the 18th inst., the wife of H. DIXON, of a daughter. [1661]

MARRIAGE.

At St. Andrew's Church, Chefoo, on the 9th July, by the Rev. Henry Mathews and in the presence of the United States Consul, LOUIS HENRY, son of the Rev. Thomas SMITH, of St. Joseph, La., U.S.A., to JESSIE, younger daughter of the late Charles CORNE, of Shanghai.

DEATH.

On the 21st July, 1796, at Dumfries, N.B., ROBERT BURNS, peasant, patriot, and poet, in the 37th year of his age. Scotsmen, dinna forget. [1666]

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 20th June arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 16th July (26 days); and the French mail of the 14th June arrived, per M. M. steamer *Yarra*, on the 18th July (34 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The death is reported of Mr. W. H. Forbes, for many years the senior partner in the late firm of Russell & Co.

The Hongkong Ice Co., Limited, notify an interim dividend for the half-year ended 30th June of eight per cent., payable on the 27th July.

Dr. Yersin's plague cure appears now to be well established. A number of cases have been successfully treated at Amoy, but the supply of lymph is now unfortunately exhausted.

The Shanghai Waterworks Co. has declared a dividend of 15s. per share for the half year; an increase of 2s. as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

The *Oanfu*, from Hankow with new season's tea, arrived in London on the 13th July, having made the passage from Woosung in 37½ days.

It is officially notified by the Netherlands Government that the port of Pulo Way is now open to general trade and that ships can coal there.

Lai Mit, who fatally shot a Chinese constable at Hongkong on the 12th July, has been captured in Chinese territory and is now in the hands of the native authorities.

Subject to audit the forthcoming dividend of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank will be £1 5s. per share, \$250,000 to be placed to the Reserve Fund, and about \$300,000 carried forward.

The insurrection in Mid-Formosa has assumed serious dimensions. The outbreak has been provoked by the oppression and cruelty of the Japanese soldiery and petty officials, who have been guilty of great atrocities.

Intelligence has been received of the death of the Rev. E. P. Hearnden, of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, who was accidentally drowned while attempting to cross the Tienho river near his home at Ch'ueho.

The Straits Settlements imports for the first quarter of the present year amounted to \$46,290,890 and the exports to \$38,203,549, showing increases of \$691,683 and \$80,875 respectively on the corresponding quarter of last year.

The *Mercury's* Peking advices state that it has been stated that the duty on native opium is to be increased from Tls. 30 to Tls. 60 per picul, payable at place of production, such increase to exempt the drug from any further imposition whatsoever.

It is now announced that Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, of H.M.'s Consular Service in China, is the official that will accompany the Commercial Mission to China that has been organised by the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce. The mission will probably leave England in September.

Notwithstanding the unsettled state of affairs about the Hankow-Peking Railway, a Chinese correspondent informs us that the Hangyang Iron Works are busily at work turning out materials for the line, which will have Shashi instead of Hankow as its starting point.—*Mercury*.

The damage to the *Kobe Maru* from skimming a rock near Shimonoseki is, the *N. C. Daily News* says, much more serious than was imagined, and her repairs will probably take at least ten days. Had she been a yard farther out she would have gone clear; had she been a yard farther in she would probably have torn out her bilge and sunk. She was saved by being built of steel with a double bottom.

A new Municipal Bill is now before the Straits Legislative Council and a number of the clauses have been passed in committee. One of the provisions, which has been accepted after some opposition, enforces a clear air space at the rear of all buildings erected in future. Another clause gives the Commissioners power to tax bicycles and tricycles. It is considered unlikely that the Commissioners will avail themselves of the power.

H. E. Marshal Yamagata was one of the passengers by the *Yarra*, which arrived here on Saturday morning. When the steamer anchored the Japanese Consul and other gentlemen boarded the vessel and waited on his Excellency, and they then escorted him to the office of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, where he remained all day. He did not call upon H.E. the Governor, but sent his card by his Secretary. The Marshal is in indifferent health and has been obliged to decline all official attentions on his way out.

We read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that the number of Japanese subjects residing in Siam having become very numerous, the advisability of establishing a Japanese Legation and Consulate there has been urged upon the Tokyo Government. Before taking any step of that nature, however, the Foreign Office in Tokyo has intimated to Siam that revision of the Treaty between the two countries is desirable, and the Siamese Government has given its consent. As to the place for carrying on the negotiations, Tokyo has been chosen, and it is expected that, within a brief period, a plenipotentiary envoy will come from Siam.—*Japan Mail*.

The Shensi correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* says:—The news from Kansu is to the effect that the famous Tung Fu-hsiang in obedience to the Imperial command has begun a massacre of all the Mahomedans that he comes across. At Hainingfu he slew three thousand business men and sold their wives and female children. Fears are entertained of a general rising, especially in Pinlianfu and Haitien, which have hitherto remained faithful. The rebellion hitherto was confined to a few Mahomedans, the declaration of the "Holy War" being withheld till necessary as a measure of self-preservation. The Mahomedans across the Russian frontier are said to have promised their aid, and who knows if the little spark lighted near the Tibetan border may not grow into a great conflagration embracing Central Asia and India?

Considerable consternation was created in the Imperial Palace at Tokyo on the 1st instant though an official misapprehension. Certain seismological experiments were being prepared by the Central Meteorological Observatory, perhaps in the same line as those recently made by Professor Milne at Oxford. Somehow, one of the Palace officials got it into his head that the Observatory scientists had detected the approach of a great earthquake of the real kind. So this busybody at once went and definitely notified his superiors that a destructive earthquake was coming on at midnight. This threw the people in the Palace into a panic. All the officials off duty were called up, and preparations for removing the Emperor and Empress to a place of safety were immediately started. The scare among the ladies in waiting was beyond description, all running about in dismay and confusion. The preparations for avoiding the danger were almost completed, but nothing was heard from the Observatory. This aroused suspicion, and an official was despatched to the Observatory to inquire into the truth of the report, and it was then learned that nothing more than a small artificial earthquake for experimental purposes was coming on and this had probably given rise to the absurd report.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

JAPANESE MISGOVERNMENT IN FORMOSA.

The Japanese in Formosa appear to be emulating the atrocities committed by the Turks on their subject races and which from time to time give rise to the intervention of the Powers. In Formosa also the Powers will have to intervene if the Japanese do not speedily adopt a change of policy. The soldiery now in the country appear to be no better than murderers and ravishers and no attempt is made to restrain them. When Formosa passed into the hands of Japan after the latter's brilliant victory over China it was expected that a firm and just ruler would be established, that the resources of the beautiful island would be developed, and that trade would flourish. What has actually taken place is something very different. Innocent people have their villages burnt, of the inhabitants many are executed in barbarous fashion without any form of trial, and women are ravished; the cruelties practised have resulted in stirring up an insurrection, and trade is to a large extent brought to a standstill. It is inconceivable that the Powers can look calmly on and tolerate the continuance of such a state of affairs indefinitely. If Japan cannot rule the island in a civilised manner she will have to surrender the task altogether. So far the substitution of Japanese for Chinese rule in Formosa has been anything but a blessing to the people, and the experience gained thus far is not promising for the future. This is disappointing to the friends of Japan and is calculated to raise doubts as to whether it would not have been well if she had been prevented from acquiring Formosa in the same way as her retention of the Liaotung Peninsula was prevented. To think of over seventy villages being burnt, and men, women, and children slaughtered in cold blood, gives some idea of the cruel condition of affairs at present prevailing. These inhuman measures are taken to punish a few robber bands, but no attempt is made to discriminate between the innocent and the guilty, and the circumstances raise a presumption that the Japanese are utterly incapable of colonising, a presumption that it will now require a great deal to overthrow. Everyone knows what quiet people the Chinese are under foreign rule, as exemplified by colonies like Hongkong and the Straits, and the Formosa people are said by all foreigners who have had dealings with them to be particularly amenable to reason. Had the Japanese adopted a rational form of government they would have found the Chinese ready and even anxious to submit. Trade would have increased and flourished and in a very short time the island would have been one of the most important centres in the Far East. Instead of that the country has been thrown into rebellion and it will take years to rectify the terrible errors committed by the petty officers who have inadvisably been endowed with such large powers. Many of the rich people are flying to the mainland of China, fearing another military occupation, and the industries, notably sugar, will suffer materially. The rebellion, if it can be called one, is universally popular in the country and the Japanese will require an immense force to restore order, in doing which it will behove them to avoid any repetition of the atrocities lately committed by their soldiers. Foreigners in the settlements are simply horrified at the terrible accounts brought in daily from the devastated plains, and competent judges are of opinion that the dis-

affection will spread to the south and that a general rising will follow the successes gained by the people further north. The losses to foreigners in the camphor districts are already enormous, and it will be the duty of the foreign Powers to demand indemnification.

ROBERT BURNS.

(21st July)

Scotchmen have played and still play so great a part in Hongkong history that we are confident our general readers will condone any possible offence in our drawing attention to the fact that to-day is the centennary of the death of Scotland's great poet. On 21st July, 1796, the news that ROBERT BURNS was dead sounded as a knell to the literary hopes and aspirations of a whole people: a great man had fallen in the Israel of letters, a very prince among the people; and the passage of a hundred years has but deepened the impression. Every decade since the event has produced two new biographies and innumerable estimates of the poet, but his station in literature and patriotism is still growing. The fascination which his works, personality, and life exert on all who speak the English tongue seems but to intensify with time. It is interesting to note that the centennary is to be celebrated by a sumptuous edition of BURNS's works by Messrs. HENLEY and HENDERSON, in which we are promised much matter hitherto unpublished.

The life and character of BURNS have been the source of more contention than that of any modern man-of-letters. The purists, from WORDSWORTH downwards, have battered on to his sins and follies to point their morals. The fleshly men, beginning with HAZLITT, have hailed him as a "highly sublimed essence of animal existence" and the very high priest of social glee.

Tam lo'd him as a very brither

They had been fou' for weeks thegither.

The pietists have claimed him as a slightly soiled saint, and quote the "Cottar's Saturday Night" as stealing over the soul like a requiem on a sweet organ; while the wise and generous have devoutly and thankfully taken up the splendid literary heritage which BURNS has left them, have sunk their censure in gratitude, and have refused to judge a Courser of the Sun by the canons which apply to the ambles of a mule. Contemporary life is usually cruel to genius, but posterity is increasingly kind. We now recognize that BURNS's life was largely marred by the very qualities which made him as a poet—by an acute sensibility, a passionate nature, an exquisite sympathy, and a stiff pride. In art, his genius and fine critical judgment enabled him to master this team successfully; in life, the want of will-power and the absence of a high ideal completely robbed him of all control over them. Our generation, however, is not overzealous in recalling demerit; in the splendour of BURNS's gift to us we do not dwell too long on his self-condemnation "that thoughtless folly laid him low and stained his name."

BURNS's niche in the temple of fame is now clearly defined. Three generations have worked steadily on his productions and literary character. The net result has been a general endorsement of the views which CARLYLE set forth in his masterly essay (one of the finest in our language) as far back as 1828. Fine poet as he undoubtedly is, he is destined to live for ever as a lyricist or song-writer and as the regenerator of the Scottish national sentiment. GOETHE, SCOTT, BERANGER, MENDELSSOHN, to say nothing of the entire English-speaking race,

unite to testify of his unique power in song. Love in its every phase—divine, profane, pathetic, humorous—finds in BURNS its chiefest exponent. His "Mary in Heaven," "Mary Morrison," "O' the Aerie," "O wert Thou in the Cauld Blast," "John Anderson my Jo," and "Duncan Gray," inimitable elsewhere, can be equalled over and over again in his own repertory. Friendship finds its climax of literary expression in Auld Lang Syne, a Scotch regiment would charge red-wat-shod into the jaws of Hell at the trumpet call of "Scots wha hae"; many generations of men have drunk themselves tipsy from a fellow feeling with Ral and Allan anent "Willie's Maut"; "A Man's a Man for a' that" is an epitome of a sound system of philosophy; and these are but samples. But why go on? This is but an old story infinitely better told. His songs are part of the mother tongue, not of Scotland only, but of Britain, and of the millions that in all the ends of the earth speak a British language. In hut and hall, as the heart unfolds itself in many "coloured joy and woe of existence, the name, the voice of that joy and that woe is the name and voice which BURNS has given them. Strictly speaking, perhaps no British man has so deeply affected the thoughts and feelings of so many men as this solitary individual with means apparently the humblest." These are great words, but the passage of time only deepens their meaning; they are an adequate explanation of the wonderful fame which has cohered around the "wild Bacchanal" and "gauger of ale-firkins."

Genius is ever the parent of many miracles. That of BURNS transfigured an uncouth speech into soft music and raised a dying dialect into permanent literature. SCOTT carried on the movement in his novels and in our time we see it in the hands of GEORGE MACDONALD, W. OLIPHANT, Messrs. BLACK, BARRIE, CROCKETT, and WATSON threatening permanently to impair the Queen's English in fiction. The next miracle was cognate, the rekindling of the Scottish spirit. In these days we laugh sardonically at BOSWELL meekly imploring the Englishman to give the Scot a fair chance. A fair chance indeed! when all over the world the obtrusive Caledonian comes as inevitably a-top as oil does in water. BURNS did not of course communicate the qualities which ensure success, but he is chiefly responsible for that splendid mutual cohesion and patriotic fire which marks the Scot in the social struggle for survival.

BURNS, too, shares with the gentle COWPER the honour of being the first great literary man to give passionate expression to that altruism or deep sympathy which is so marked a feature of our modern civilization. He is the poet and special pleader of the animal creation; its sufferings cause him deep pangs and he infects others with his beneficence toward it. As our readers may know, an eminent living social philosopher ascribes transcendent results to these feelings in social evolution.

We need not touch on BURNS as a poet or capitulate his works. The advantage of observing anniversaries like that of to-day is that we stir our torpid literary conscience; we feel ashamed of the dust burden on our old spiritual allies; we are encouraged to remove it and to renew "an old acquaintance." Englishmen may join in this pious task, for, as our extract from CARLYLE shows, BURNS was born for all mankind. A personal reinspection of his works is after all the best celebration possible of a very great event in the history of English letters.

THE TRADE OF THE COLONY.

The Harbour Master, in his report for last year, says his department has now, at an infinite amount of trouble and pains on the part of the officers concerned, succeeded in producing statistics of trade usually only found at ports which have the advantage for this purpose of a Custom-house, and he expresses the hope that the information may be valued in proportion to the amount of time and trouble expended in its compilation. The statistics given are, from a public point of view, very valuable, but they are not calculated to be of much practical utility to the private merchant or trader. In imports only twenty-five articles are separately enumerated, all the rest, amounting in bulk to nearly one half the trade, being included under the comprehensive heading "general." In exports there is no enumeration of articles given at all, but simply the gross number of tons. Nor is there any statement of values. The returns are consequently very meagre and incomplete as compared with those issued at ports where accurate statistics are compiled by the machinery of a Custom-house. The mercantile community of Hongkong, however, has emphatically declared that it does not want detailed statistics of the trade of the port collected, and under those circumstances we must be content with figures such as those now included in the Harbour Master's report.

These figures, while they do not afford much assistance in following the course of the market in its various ramifications, are eminently useful as showing the gross trade of the port and whether it is increasing or declining, a point of much importance from a public point of view and to each resident individually. It will be remembered that a few years ago an outcry was raised about the decline of the trade of the port and we were threatened with "the sad fate that overtook the island of St. Thomas," notwithstanding that at the time there was a notable increase in the shipping trade, the life blood of the colony. Just at that time the life blood of the colony did not seem to be accorded its proper importance as a criterion of our commercial prosperity; it was said that although more ships were entering the port they were carrying less cargo, and something in the nature of universal ruin was prognosticated. The dispute, which took rather an acrimonious turn, had its origin in the discussion of the Colonial Estimates in the Legislative Council, and the need of some more exact measure of the trade of the port than a statement of the gross tonnage entering and leaving was much felt. That want is supplied by the statistics of the cargo shipped and discharged now included in the Harbour Master's report, and the time and trouble expended in their compilation is well applied.

The figures are also interesting, not only as facilitating a comparison of the gross bulk of the trade of one year with that of another as measured by quantities, but also as affording a rough and ready means of calculating its gross value. Some years ago, as the result of rather laborious calculations and inquiries, the probable value of the gross trade of Hongkong was stated in this column as about £40,000,000 sterling. That figure was accepted by the Government and officially quoted by Sir George Bowen, and it has since been generally adopted whenever a statement of the value of the trade of the port had to be made, as for instance in public memorials. An examination of the figures now published by the Harbour

Master goes to show that our estimate at the time it was made was probably not very far out, but that the figure ought now to be advanced, say, to £50,000,000, the trade having considerably increased in the meantime. Taking the enumerated imports, exclusive of opium, at an approximation to their market value, we arrive at a total of over £7,000,000, and the 1,026,004 tons of general cargo, including such articles as piece goods, hardware, clocks, watches, etc., may reasonably be taken at an average of £20 to the ton, which gives us another twenty and a half millions, while the opium imported may be taken as worth three millions, or say a total of thirty millions for imports. The exports amounted to over one and a half million tons, and £20 as an average would probably be an undervaluation, so that we arrive at a total for exports of not less than thirty-one millions sterling, or for imports and exports together £61,500,000. The colony has not many exports of its own, and the imports of to-day constitute for the most part the exports of to-morrow, but in view of the above figures, which are exclusive of through cargo not landed, we may not unreasonably take £50,000,000 as representing the legitimate *bona fide* turnover of the colony. We should like, however, to see the figures discussed in detail by experts.

LOCAL CONTROL OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

The meaning of the phrase "a consultative voice in questions of an Imperial character" in the petition of the ratepayers of Hongkong praying for constitutional reform seems to have been entirely misapprehended. It must be admitted now that the phrase was an unfortunate one, because it may be taken to mean a good deal more than what the petitioners really intended. Lord RIPON in his despatch says it "seems to point to some kind of Imperial Federation" and that "the subject raised is so wide and so vague that it would be useless to attempt to discuss it." The question "of the general remodelling of the colonial system of Great Britain," his Lordship goes on to say, "for it would probably amount to no less, as it would necessarily become part of any scheme for a Federation of the Empire, is a most interesting question; but one of too wide and far reaching a scope to be dealt with in regard to a single case alone." If a scheme of Imperial Federation were adopted we may take it for granted that those colonies, like Hongkong, which are really only trading centres or coaling stations, and where the bulk of the community is non-British, would have a very small voice if any accorded them in the deliberations of the Imperial Council, and would have to trust probably to some official of the Colonial Office to guard their interests. Nothing, we are sure, could have been farther from the minds of the signatories to the petition than a request that they should immediately be admitted to a share in the direction of the general policy of the Empire. What was intended, as we understand, was that with regard to Imperial affairs that have to be dealt with locally the petitioners did not claim that they should be allowed to exercise through their representatives the same full control that they claimed a right to exercise over purely local affairs, but that they would be satisfied with a merely consultative voice. As a concrete instance we may take the law of extradition. Various Extradition Acts have been passed by the Legislature, one quite recently pro-

viding for the surrender of fugitive criminals from Borneo. As a matter of form Acts of this description have to pass through the local Legislative Council, but they are in reality dictated by the Imperial Government, and in matters of that kind the ratepayers of Hongkong could not in reason claim more than a consultative voice, and that only in order that they might be able to point out any local circumstances that might seem to differentiate the case of Hongkong from that of other places and call for some special adaptation of the law. Another instance is that of the Merchant Shipping Act. No one would be so foolish as to claim that the Legislature of Hongkong, whether with or without an unofficial majority, should be at liberty to throw over the principles on which the merchant shipping law of the Empire rests and adopt brand new principles of its own, but it is right that the colony should have a consultative voice in the matter in order that our special local interests may be adequately safeguarded. This, we take it, is all that the clause in the petition meant, but it has been taken to mean more, and its introduction was therefore unfortunate.

What the petition really asked for was local control over municipal affairs, to be exercised through the Legislative Council. We think, and have thought from the outset, that a petition for the establishment of a Municipal Council would have had more chance of success, and that had it been granted the concession would have been of more practical utility than an unofficial majority in the Legislative Council. However, it is possible that the end aimed at may ultimately be achieved by securing a recognition of the Legislative Council as endowed also with municipal functions. Lord RIPON seems to have taken rather liberal views on the subject, and had his despatch been published at the time it was received, in accordance with his Lordship's request, further representations might have been made to him which might have resulted in better terms being obtained for the colony than those which have been granted by his successor. "With regard to the institution of a Municipal Council," Lord RIPON wrote, "I frankly say that I should like to see one established at Hongkong." He goes on, however, to point out what he conceives to be the difficulties in the way, one of which "is that of separating municipal from colonial matters," but he thinks that "the Sanitary Board might be developed into a satisfactory Municipal Council controlling all or some of the revenue which is now derived from the rates." When the Sanitary Board was first established as a popularly constituted body we hailed it as the forerunner of a Municipal Council, and that it will ultimately develop into something of the kind, notwithstanding the present cloud under which it labours, we have no doubt. As long ago as 1847 a Parliamentary Committee recognised that Hongkong required municipal institutions, and with the lapse of time the requirement has made itself more acutely felt. If, however, the difficulty of separating municipal from colonial affairs is found to be as great as it is officially represented to be, we may have to make some sort of a compromise on the basis of allowing the Legislative Council to perform also some of the functions of a Municipal Council, which might be accomplished in part, for instance, by giving to that body the power of making by-laws, rules, and regulations which are now made by the Governor-in-Executive Council, and by increasing the

control exercised by the Legislative Council over the details of public works and finance. Two unofficial members are to be placed on the Executive Council, and that is a concession the value of which we estimate very highly, but it must be remembered that the Executive Council is a secret body, and that the members are solemnly bound not to disclose what transpires at its deliberations. This is necessary, having regard to the general character of the work of the Executive Council, but it places limits on the usefulness of the unofficial members in regard to municipal matters, in which there ought to be no secrecy. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, unfortunately, has not been able to give a very close attention to the conditions prevailing in this colony, or he would have made larger concessions than merely placing two unofficial members on the Executive Council, valuable as that concession is in itself. If the right hon. gentleman had pictured to himself Birmingham under official rule, the Mayor a permanent official to be styled his Excellency, the Town Clerk, Borough Surveyor, Borough Treasurer, and the other heads of municipal departments all dubbed "honourable" and endowed with full control over all municipal affairs, including expenditure and taxation, with only a few humble citizens to sit at the foot of the table as the representatives of the ratepayers, always liable to have their views overridden by the official majority—if the hon. gentleman had placed a picture of that kind before his mind and taken it as accurately representing, as it would have done, the actual state of affairs in Hong-kong, we think he would not have been satisfied with it, even as ameliorated by the admission of two unofficials to the secret conclaves of the officials.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

It may interest the anti-opium agitators in the United Kingdom to learn that the Chinese are every year increasing the quantity of native grown opium, and that the import of foreign drug is steadily declining in consequence. No doubt they will feel much gratified by this interesting fact, but however exultant they may be over it, the victory is certainly of the Pyrrhic order. The opium smoking habit is in nowise abating in China because an increasing proportion of the supply is home grown; but there is a danger, on account of its lower cost, of the trade for the stimulant considerably extending. Of course there will be some satisfaction to the pious minded that the drug does not come from India, and they will no doubt dwell with unction on the fact that the Chinese are poisoning themselves and not being poisoned by the agency of British merchants. The Customs Returns for 1895 show that the marked falling off in the import for 1894 was not arrested in 1895, but on the contrary the decline in the trade was even more conspicuous in the latter year. The reduction is set down to the restricted production in India greatly enhancing the cost, and thus curtailing the demand, combined with the improved quality and cheapness of the native drug. Only 51,306 piculs of foreign opium (Indian, Persian, and Turkish) were imported in 1895, as compared with 63,125 piculs in 1894, showing a decline of 11,819 piculs in that year. Mr. KOPSCH, Statistical Secretary to the Imperial Maritime Customs, when referring to this falling off in the import of foreign opium, remarks:—"By a singular coincidence this deficit corresponds closely with the total shipment—11,779 piculs—of native opium from Chung-

king, in the province of Szechuen, for distribution among the ports, though this quantity is only a moiety of what leaves that westernmost port by other routes and conveyances." This is a considerable amount and it is a marked increase upon that of previous years, being about 35 per cent., due to the profits made the preceding year, and an increased area has been planted. A small portion of this opium, 988 piculs, came from Yunnan. The following comparison will sufficiently illustrate the progress of this export from Chungking:—

	1893	1894	1895
	piculs	piculs	piculs.
Szechuen Opium	2,513	5,280	10,791
Yunnan "	85	739	988
	2,598	6,019	11,779

This of course does not represent all that was carried down the river in junks in addition to the above. The total export is estimated at about 25,000 piculs. At Ichang the import of foreign opium in 1895 was, owing to the quantity of Szechuen and Yunnan drug received, nil. Formerly there was a small import of the foreign drug, but that has ceased for some years, and the export of the native drug goes on steadily increasing, and now not only are the river ports supplied by it but also parts of Kiangsi and Chekiang, which get it through Shanghai. A good deal of opium, Mr. SCHJOTH tells us, is also grown in the western part of the Hupeh province, but this product naturally finds its way to Shasi along the old established land routes through Shih-nan-fu and I-tu. At Hankow, Kiukiang, Wuhu, and Chinkiang a steady decrease in the import of Foreign opium is recorded, the reason in all cases given being the plentiful supply and lower price of the native drug. Mr. LLOYD PALM, Commissioner of Customs at Wuhu, mentions that there was a fine opium crop in Anhwei in 1895, and the proportional consumption of the different kinds of native opium in Wuhu was as follows:—Anhwei opium 70 per cent.; Szechuen, 20 per cent.; and Kiangsu, 10 per cent. Szechuen drug is, however, gaining ground on account of its quality. The increased consumption of the native drug at Chinkiang caused a falling off of 30 per cent. in the import of the foreign drug. It is a question of cost; the Indian drug is still greatly preferred, only in 1895 the price ruled very high, varying from Tls. 595 to Tls. 660 per picul. The price of Hsu-chow opium was, on the other hand, only about Tls. 256. This drug, however, we learn from Mr. Commissioner LAY, is much adulterated. He says:—"The stock on hand of Hsu-chow opium manufactured in 1894 is said to be still very large, as the opium is unsaleable, owing to the excessive adulteration which it underwent. People who usually smoked the local drug lost all confidence in it and turned to the Foreign article to appease their appetite. The new opium put on the market is pronounced to be fairly good, vendors in the interior having learnt that too much adulteration means financial ruin rather than profit." At Ningpo the same story is told of a serious falling off in the import of Foreign opium and the increased export of the native article. Mr. LESLIE, the Acting Commissioner, says that an old smoker at Ningpo told him that "it requires 3½ mace in weight of Szechuen opium to afford him the same pleasant sensations as 3 mace of Indian, which, considering their relative prices, would allow of his enjoyment at a cost of about 30 per cent. less by using the

"native article." He adds that the smokers there are gradually becoming accustomed to the native article. In all the Southern ports, from Wenchow to Pakhoi, with the one exception of Hoihow in Hainan, the decline has been marked, and in Swatow and Canton the native drug is now fast superseding the Foreign product. In markets formerly supplied with Foreign drug from Swatow about 2,000 piculs of native opium were consumed in 1895. At Canton four kinds of native drug compete with the Indian, namely, the Szechuen, Yunnan, Kweichow, and Kwangtung opium, all of which are necessarily inferior in point of quality and value to the Foreign article. The poppy is rarely met with in Kwangtung, and as the soil and climate are not favourable it is not likely to be extensively cultivated there. It will not do well in Hainan, and the only native opium that finds its way there is from Yunnan and that is all smuggled. At Lungchow, where there is no foreign opium imported, Szechuen drug is making headway, driving out the inferior product of Kweichow and even competing with the Yunnan drug. From Mengtszu in Yunnan 603 piculs of native opium were exported to Tonkin, and small shipments of Szechuen drug have even been made to the Straits Settlements. It will thus be seen that the consumption of Foreign opium everywhere in China is decidedly on the wane, not because the habit of opium smoking is declining, but because the native production of the drug has immensely increased. The official prohibition of the cultivation of the poppy, always a farce, has practically been suspended, and, at any rate in Western China, it is now one of the most profitable crops. Considering that ten years ago the import of Foreign opium into China reached 96,164 piculs and that last year it only amounted to 51,306 piculs, there seems reason to believe that the trade is likely to be reduced to a small compass, the supply of a superior luxury for the benefit of the opulent and well-to-do.

CONTEMPT OF COURT.

With regard to the ruling of the Acting Puisne Judge in the Sanitary Board case as to an alleged contempt of court on the part of this journal and of Mr. HASTINGS, the solicitor conducting the case, we have now had an opportunity of referring to the authorities on the matter, not only those quoted by Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH, but the later authorities, which he does not appear to have consulted, and with due deference to His Honour we find that the cases do not support the opinion expressed by him. But before referring to the authorities in detail we must take exception to the procedure adopted by the Acting Puisne Judge. The usual way for such a matter as this to be brought before the courts, and, we submit, the only proper way under the circumstances, is for the party who considers himself prejudiced by the publication to move the Judge to commit the offender, whether newspaper owner or otherwise, for contempt of court, and then the matter is properly argued and the person charged with contempt has an opportunity of defending himself and of arguing whether according to the true view of the law on the subject he is guilty of a contempt or not. In this case, however, the Acting Puisne Judge took upon himself to decide the question without any motion to commit having been made. This, we submit, is unusual and inconvenient, besides being contrary to the principle that every person alleged to

have offended in any way ought to have a right to be heard before being adjudged to be in contempt. In the second place, we say with confidence that no case can be found in which an impartial publication of the pleadings on both sides, without any comments, has been held contempt of court, and we submit that the Acting Puisne Judge has entirely failed, inadvertently no doubt, to grasp the principle of the cases on the subject. Publication of documents such as these in itself is no contempt, for to constitute contempt the publication must be with a bias in favour of one side or the other, showing that it "was intended or clearly calculated to prejudice the fair trial of the action," to use the words of Lord Russell of Killowen in the latest case on the subject, *Regina v. Payne*, 74 Law Times Reports 352. The bias may be shown by the fact that the statement of one side is published and that of the other suppressed, or it may be shown by adverse comment being made against the case of one party or the other. Now was there anything of the kind in this instance? Here the statements of both sides were published. Which side was prejudiced thereby? The Acting Puisne Judge seems to think that the Sanitary Board was prejudiced. But why were they prejudiced any more than the plaintiff? We confess we are at a loss to understand.

The cases quoted by the Acting Puisne Judge are all of them cases in which either the statement of one party to a suit was published without that of the other, or injurious comments were made by a newspaper affecting the case of one side or the other. For instance, in *Tichborne v. Mostyn* a newspaper published a paragraph about a pending suit saying that the statements of some of the witnesses who had made affidavits on one side were "obviously false and worthless." That was a most improper comment to make, but to compare that case with and treat it as an authority in the present case shows, we submit, a want of appreciation of the principle on which such decisions are based. Moreover, the cases quoted by Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH may fairly be called somewhat ancient law, as the latest of them was decided in 1869, and we think that if the more modern decisions on the subject are referred to it will be found that the current of the later authorities is directly opposed to the opinion expressed by the Judge in this case. We would commend to the attention of our readers the late cases of *Hunt v. Clarke* (1889), 61 Law Times Reports 343, the *Plating Co. v. Farquharson* (1881), Law Reports 17 Ch. D. 49, and the *Metropolitan Music Hall Co. v. Lake* (1889), 60 Law Times Reports 749. In the last case Mr. Justice CHITTY says the test is to see whether a reasonable man could say that what had been done would interfere with the course of justice, and he goes on to say that the case would not go before a jury "and to suppose that an article of this kind will influence the mind of the Judge who tries the action is to my mind preposterous." We submit that these remarks are decidedly applicable to the present case. Then there is the above mentioned case of *Regina v. Payne*, decided in March, 1896, in which Lord Russell of Killowen approves the principle of the cases last referred to. He says, "Applications to the Court to exercise its summary power to commit for contempt have of late been far too numerous and in some cases more especially in the Chancery Courts, the decisions of the Courts have gone in my opinion too far." We have therefore no doubt but that, if this matter

had been brought before the Court in the usual manner, that is, on a motion to commit, the only result would have been that on a review of the later authorities the motion must have been dismissed with costs.

THE INSURRECTION IN FORMOSA.

JAPANESE ATROCITIES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN SOUTH FORMOSA.)
TAINANFOO, 7th July.

At last! What we have been fearing has taken place, and the natives, goaded to desperation, have organized a formidable insurrection in the Hoonim district of mid-Formosa.

As far as foreigners are concerned, the chief disaster to be recorded is the murder of Mr. D. D. Ollia, senior member of the Parsee firm, Dinshaw and Co. This gentleman is supposed to have been killed by the native insurgents, who it is said, mistook him for a Japanese. Although no positive details of the tragedy have been obtained, owing to the present isolation of the disaffected districts, we fear there can be little doubt as to the veracity of the statements made about his death. He, in common with other Foreign representatives of firms here, had been residing in Hoonim watching his camphor interests for several months, but most fortunately the rest of his companions had left the district a week or so prior to the outbreak. Mr. Patel, of Messrs. Mehta & Co., seems to have had a narrow escape, as he only fled after the fighting had commenced. As it is, he was unable to come south overland, so had to take launch from Lok-khang to Tamsui. He wires that "it is certain Mr. Ollia has been killed." It is to be feared that all Foreign property at Hoonim, consisting of treasure, camphor, and opium, to very considerable value, has been lost either by looting or burning. The insurgents are said to have killed nearly all the Japanese at Hoonim and Tanlak, and to be in possession of the whole country as far as a place called Twa-po-na, about 8 miles north of Khaghi, where there is a Japanese garrison, considerably increased by the detachments which have retreated thither from the outlying places.

The following extracts are translated from a letter sent by a very reliable Chinese refugee to a friend here:—

"This morning at 4.30 the insurgents had some fighting with the Japanese at Hoonim. The engagement lasted till 7 o'clock, when the Japanese, being defeated, retreated to Tan-lak. The Japanese had many men killed. There are several hundred insurgents in Hoonim. The houses of the European employees are deserted, and I have also left, but was not able to take with me either clothing or money. I had to borrow money from friends to defray expenses.

"Kin Kee's foreigner (Ollia, of Dinshaw Co.), while out in the street in Hoonim, was severely cut by the rebels, who mistook him for a Japanese. I have since heard that he died from the effects, but I cannot say for certain. What measures will his firm take in regard to his sad case?

"I have been running from one place to another without finding a safe abode. My temporary home is Pi-e-tan, where I take shelter under the roof of a relation. This place is on the boundary line of Chang-wha. Insurgents are rising up everywhere, and as far as I can ascertain they have been incensed to their present attitude by the Japanese.

"When Japanese troops again come to the scene of disturbance perhaps once more innocent people will be made to suffer untold misery. Heaven seems to have decreed that these unfortunate people shall not escape misfortune in any event.

The above is a brief *resumé* of the state of affairs existing at present, which we have most regretfully to admit have been gradually but surely (in spite of the forbearance and long suffering of the Chinese) led up to by the previous innumerable acts of tyranny and gross cruelties perpetrated by those who, so far, have alone had the opportunity of coming into the closest contact with the people.

There can be no two opinions about the fact that the Japanese form of civil government, both theoretical and practical, is as immensely

superior to the Chinese system as anything based on the most humane tenets of advanced civilization must necessarily be when compared to that which is in every way its contrast. Thus it is that had the Japanese placed these advantages before the people as speedily as possible after the occupation, they would undoubtedly have met with a most docile submission that would quickly have ripened into a grateful acceptance of a condition so favourably contrasting with that to which they had been accustomed. This we know to be a fact, and in almost every district, and especially in those where trade considerations had the most weight, the great majority of the people were not only most anxiously, but even sanguinely, solicitous for the institution of civil law and order at as early a date as possible. Through some mal-advice, or it may be, not unnaturally, in consequence of the ignorance of persons suddenly brought in contact with a strange people, the Japanese elected to keep on the military rule, with all its rough and ready accompaniments: detachments of gendarmes, soldiers, and coolies overran the country, each individual by his oppressive and even outrageous acts becoming a focus of irritation, which has now brought about a condition of desperation among the natives that is almost indescribable. It is unnecessary to go into minute details of every act, or quote each well authenticated case of respectable women ravished, property ruthlessly destroyed, and unprovoked assaults made on the person. It is neither our province nor wish to write any harrowing or sensational account of the piteous deeds that have been perpetrated in the name of those who we feel certain would be the first to repudiate and condemn all such atrocities if circumstances had been so arranged as to bring them under their immediate notice. We cannot perhaps better illustrate what has been taking place than by referring to the most recent consequence of these grievous misdoings, and one in which foreigners have become so distressingly involved. It would seem that in the Hoonim districts, which closely adjoin the hills, some of the native victims less patient than others, or those whose homes had been entirely broken up by the constantly recurring visits and raids of the soldiery and gendarmerie, fled to the hills, and undoubtedly became highway or even general robbers. Their depredations proving at last annoying to the Japanese whom, however, they did not appear, so far to have directly attacked, a small military detachment was sent into the hill-country to try and break up the gang of desperadoes. Failing, in consequence of being led into an ambushade, the attacking party had to retreat. Reinforcements were, however, soon obtained, and once more the expedition started. It proved impossible to overtake the robbers, who retreated into the mountain fastnesses. Failing access to the robbers' country, the line of march would seem to have been changed so as to include all the districts lying near the base of hills, where the military commenced a wholesale burning and pillaging of villages (estimated to be between 70 and 90 in all), also several farmsteads, and killing without mercy as many of the inhabitants as came within reach. The theory of this drastic and certainly inhuman procedure was that even though the actual offenders should not be directly affected, still such an example and state of terrorism would be created as might be expected to stamp out all future attempts at lawlessness. Unhappily, so far from this being the case, the thousands rendered homeless, childless, and generally indifferent to their future, joined the robbers, who, it appears, are well supplied—whence we know not—with arms and ammunition; and the whole force, now enormously increased, swooped down on the plains, boldly attacking their late aggressors, and forced as many as escaped death to retreat to Khaghi, which latter place the rebels are said to be now threatening.

We do not know what force the Japanese have in this latter place, but as we have previously stated, the outlying detachments both from the coast and the hill regions, having fallen back, there must prove very acceptable reinforcements under the circumstances.

We have now tried to lay before you, as far as time and space permit, the state of affairs existing here at present. We need scarcely

say that all trade is, almost at a standstill, as even in the non-combatant districts a state of terrorism exists which is quite indescribable.

From the very first the Japanese have employed and encouraged some of the lowest of the late yamen "runners," whose every word they seem to believe, and whose only attraction consists in their being able to understand "mandarin," the dialect of Chinese with which the Japanese seem to be solely acquainted. These men have been systematically levying blackmail on the people, of course using the Japanese name. Many instances have occurred where even decapitations have taken place on the bare word of these persons, who have trumped up charges against innocent people, who either refused to comply with their extortionate demands or were unable to do so. We make no imputation here on the good faith of the Japanese, who, probably in ignorance of the antecedents of their informers, accepted their statements either without corroboration or with only the attestation of the latter's accomplices.

The Chinese say, and we have reason to believe with much truth, that the extortion and terrorism from this source alone exceeds anything previously experienced under the most corrupt Chinese officials. For this, however, we must again repeat that the regrettable credulity of the Japanese authorities is alone to be deprecated, while it must be remembered that they have been severely handicapped by reason of their ignorance of the local language, and were thus compelled to seek for inter-pretorial aid in all their operations. The pity is, that they have not exercised more discretion in their selection, or at least abstained from drawing from so notoriously tainted a source as the yamen riffraff.

14th July.

Since writing the foregoing we have been able to get reliable and tested information, giving more circumstantial details as to the immediate events of the three or four days preceding the 28th June, the day the outbreak occurred at Hoonim. Neither time nor space permit, at present, of our doing more than stating the facts as narrated by the various informants. These former, however, speak for themselves and need no comment:—

On the 22nd of June ultimo a force of about one hundred and fifty Japanese troops arrived at Hoonim and gave out that they were on their way to Po-li-sia, a place two days' journey from Hoonim. (This was a detachment from the main expeditionary force, sent to continue the work of devastation we mentioned in the former part of this communication.)

The "Chong-li"—Official (Chinese) Elder of the town—was sent for and kept under arrest, also the two "Ti-paas." Between 10 and 11 o'clock at night the whole force left Hoonim, and proceeded to a place called Tang-si-ki, about 8 miles from Hoonim. On the outskirts of Hoonim they arrested a countryman, who they made act as guide. On arrival at Tang-si-ki they found it almost deserted, only a few women being left as caretakers. These unfortunate people were immediately killed and the whole place fired. The Chong-li begged that the temple, as a sacred place, might be spared, whereupon a soldier standing by instantly cut him down. The next morning the soldiers proceeded to Tau-lak, the district town, where the civil Bureau is established, and on their way burnt three villages (viz. Ku-kiong-na, Sia-lu-yang, and Hai-hong-lung), killing about 200 people, sparing no male, not even children. The women, however, were not slain. It was at one of these places (Ku-kiong-na) that a man in charge of treasure belonging to a British firm was killed. It seems he had stopped to rest in one of the houses and on being challenged by the soldiers produced his customs "safe conduct," setting forth his business and errand. This was snatched from him and thrown on the ground. He picked it up, and put it once more in his pocket. His arms were then bound behind him, and by a rapid slash he was disembowelled, death resulting after a short time. Strange, the treasure bearers were allowed to go on their way unmolested, the soldiers saying that their load proved their innocence! His body was afterwards identified, and picked out from a heap of slain men and children and buried. As shewing the deliberate manner in which the massacre had been carried out, it may

be mentioned that the dead were tied together in threes by their cues, prior to being bayoneted! The scene here is described as something awful to behold. The women wailing over their dead, and the latter, rapidly advancing in decomposition, filling the air with noisome odours. The subsequent burial of the man above mentioned was not unaccompanied by risk, as the friends were warned by the women that previous burial parties had been shot down as soon as they approached the heaps of slain.

On the 27th, at 4 a.m., a small body of insurgents appeared at Hoonim, but after firing a few shots retired, evidently waiting for reinforcements. The gendarmes sent off one of their number on horseback to Tau-lak for assistance, and by that evening thirty-three soldiers arrived to reinforce the garrison. During the day several families in Hoonim fled.

On the 28th, at 4.30 a.m., the insurgents reappeared, this time, about 500 strong. The Japanese barricaded themselves in some Chinese houses and a temple. The houses were piled round with firewood, on which oil was thrown. On this being fired, the occupants made a rush out for the temple, where their comrades were. The same tactics were gone through with the temple, and eventually the Japanese made a rush for it, running in all directions. Most of them were cut or shot down, only about ten escaping to Tau-lak. Japanese camphor merchants were killed with the others and their premises burnt.

It would appear that the insurgents abstained from hurting the natives, either in person or property, and made no attempt at that time to enter the Foreign hongs, though subsequently they appear to have appropriated the dollars. They declared that their object was not robbery, but only vengeance against those who had so cruelly treated themselves and their belongings.

In proof of this two incidents may be quoted, which throw light on the feelings and intentions of the insurgents. Mr. Patel, of Messrs. Mehta & Co., flying out from Hoonim, met crowds of the assailants, who immediately levelled their guns at him. His comrade, who was with him, cried out that he was not a Japanese, but a British merchant, when they at once let him pass. The same occurred with a Japanese clerk, in the employ of a German firm, who escaped to Chip-chip under the protection of the comrade, and is reported to be safe there. This, if true, speaks strongly in favour of the insurgents' self-control and freedom from what they deem unnecessary violence or reprisal.

The insurgents, whose numbers were considerably increased by fresh arrivals, next turned their attention to Tau-lak, where they arrived on the afternoon of the 28th and immediately proceeded to attack it. The military quarters were soon burnt down, as also were those occupied by the gendarmes, most of the occupants being killed, while those who escaped retired to the civil office, which was an old yamen, surrounded by a wall. A breach was soon made in the wall, and again most of the Japanese in this place were killed. A few who escaped, including the Sub Prefect, retreated to a place called Chi-tong-hong, where there were a few Japanese troops. After the fall of Tau-lak, Chi-tong-hong was attacked and, as far as can be discovered, every Japanese slain.

On the 29th Chip-chip was attacked and speedily taken, the slaughter being general, only about eight or nine Japanese managing to escape to a place called Pe-nah, where they were caught and killed. As soon as the insurgents appeared before Chip-chip, the gendarmes threw out bundles of Japanese notes and what silver they had, in the hope of buying them off. Of the former there was a very considerable amount, as these represented the sums which had been collected as taxes from the camphor producers, and had been accumulating for some time. All was of no avail, however, as after carefully picking up the money the insurgents proceeded to carry out their sanguinary programme. Every horse had its throat cut so as to completely deprive the Japanese of any effective means of escape. After all was over the horse-flesh was served out and eagerly eaten by all and sundry.

On the 29th Po-li-sia was attacked, but definite details of what has happened there are not yet to hand.

Lam-tao, Pan-tau, and Tai-li-bu were subsequently attacked and by the 30th in the hands of the insurgents. The new city (Taiwanfoo) is said to have been also taken, and the insurgents, at date of our informants' leaving, are within a very short distance of Khaghi, which they are sanguine of soon taking, as possibly there may be many sympathizers inside the city who would, on the first sign of attack, rise up and assist the assailants. The greatest joy and enthusiasm prevails all through the country at the success of the insurgents, the women rushing to tend and assist with food or other supplies the insurgent bands as they pass along.

The Chong-li of Hoonim, who was slaughtered at Tang-si-ki for trying to save the temple, belonged to a powerful and leading clan who have eagerly taken up the "blood feud," these have called on another large clan to join them saying that "human nature could bear no more all must avenge their dear ones who had been directly slaughtered or persecuted to death." It mattered not if in the end they, too, lost their lives; death was preferable to present existence, and when they entered spirit-land they would be welcomed by those who had gone before them for having well and faithfully done their duty. This toxin has had its effect, and the levée-en-masse is now an accomplished fact.

Further details of poor Mr. Ollia's death have come to hand. It seems that, as he rushed out, one of the insurgents mistook him for a Japanese and speared him in the abdomen, before his Chinese could explain. As soon as they knew who he was, they let him alone, but it was too late, for after struggling, supported by native helpers, for nearly a mile he fell. His body was reverently confined and buried by the Chinese the day after he died.

Disasters seem to be piling up. Two cargo boats, crammed with passengers from the *Thales*, chiefly women and children, capsized on the bar and between 50 and 60 were drowned. It was a most piteous sight seeing the rows of poor little children laid out on the bund as the bodies were brought in.

Just before closing this we hear, on what appears reliable information, that the insurgents have guards over all the hongs, foreign and native, in Chip-chip, allowing no looting or other interference to take place. They have levied, and to this extent helped themselves, to \$200 from each hong, but beyond this they are said to have abstained from depredations. Several of their number have been executed by the insurgent leaders for attempting to plunder.

LATER.

The latest news from Khaghi is, that the Japanese have dispersed the insurgents after desperate fighting. Twenty Japanese were killed.

A JAPANESE ACCOUNT.

We have received the following Japanese account of the rebellion in Formosa. The information was forwarded in a letter sent by the Viceroy of Formosa to Mr. R. K. Kimura, who is at present in Hongkong. Mr. Kimura is the chief of one of the Japanese Government departments in Formosa, and the object of his visit to Hongkong is to make definite arrangements with Hon. A. M. Thomson (Acting Postmaster General) respecting the mail service between this colony and Formosa.

Several causes have brought about the native insurrection now raging in the Hoonim district of mid-Formosa, but the following two are the chief causes:—

(1) Hoonim district originally (before the island was ceded to Japan) was the hereditary resort of robbers and thieves.

(2) Since Formosa was ceded to Japan, the measures taken by our garrison in this district were too mild, so that that gave the opportunity to the robbers to increase their boldness.

The resort or haunt of these native rebels is amongst the precipices of the steepest mountains, so that we might say, "one man can keep the path even against a hundred thousand," and this mountain range leads towards the aboriginal country. It is stated that the Chinese Government had had many troubles about this place for a long time and also that it had been the custom of this district for the rich families of Hoonim to pay taxes to the robbers for the sake

of keeping their lives and property in security; thus the people tried to keep always an good terms with the robbers. This bad custom is still existing at the present time. This fact explains that the native insurgents in Hoonim at present are not people turned out of their homes, that the bands are not composed of good people, but that they are robbers who have been taking shelter in the Hoonim mountainous district for many years. The leaders of the native insurgents are a Chinese military officer and a hereditary robber chief.

This spring the few Japanese soldiers garrisoned in this district were sent out for the purpose of clearing away the robbers, but the defence the latter were able to make by availing of the good conditions of their topographical situation rendered this purpose ineffective and a few soldiers were wounded in the enterprise. If this enterprise had been pursued to a successful end, the forces being increased by sending reinforcements, we should not have the present trouble, but the enterprise was abandoned rather prematurely. The robbers, thinking we could not do anything more about them, and disregarding our forces, commenced to plunder through the villages around Hoonim. In the middle of the night of the 13th June they broke into a Japanese merchant's house, situated 360 feet away from our police station. After having robbed it they retired, firing several shots.

Great necessity was found by the garrison to suppress and clear them away from this district. On the 14th July with this purpose a lieutenant commanding a small company consisting of twenty soldiers was despatched towards their haunt. Unfortunately the expedition was again ineffective, for near the mountain foot the soldiers were surrounded and attacked by the robbers, the lieutenant and six soldiers being killed, and few escaped back. The commander of the garrison asked for reinforcements from the headquarters of the regiment, and more forces were sent out. On the 21st June, these strengthened forces advanced to recommence the attack, but nobody was found there. All the cottages were left quite empty, so they burnt all these cottages and returned. Meanwhile, on the 23rd June, native rebels numbering about 300 attacked the Japanese gendarmes' station, and successively they attacked Hoonim and Chip-chip. This brought about the present conditions in mid-Formosa.

THE REBELLION IN KIANGSU.

DEFEAT OF IMPERIAL TROOPS.

ANOTHER RISING IN HUPEH.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."
SHANGHAI, 19th June.

The rising is spreading at Chuchowfu, North Kiangsu. The Magistrate of Peih sien has been captured by the rebels.

An alternative report is that the disturbance arises from a faction fight for land occupation between Shantung and Kiangsu men.

Another rising is reported to have taken place in Hsuehchow prefecture, Hupeh. The granaries have been looted and the insurgents have defeated the military police. The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is sending troops.

The American mail brings news of the death of Captain Lefavour, who was for many years in command of one of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company's steamers. Captain Lefavour left Hongkong for a trip to America after a severe illness, for which he was treated in the Government Civil Hospital. The *San Francisco Chronicle* of the 20th June says:—Captain G. B. Lefavour, a former resident of this city, but of recent years in command of a steamer plying between Canton and Hongkong, died on the east-bound overland train shortly before it reached Ogden yesterday morning, as the result of an apoplectic seizure. The deceased, who was a native of Salem, Mass., 55 years of age, arrived here on the steamer *Peru* from the Orient, en route to his old home, for which place he left this city on Tuesday evening.

SUPREME COURT.

15th July.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE.)

YEUNG SHIN KAM v. HON. F. A. COOPER
AND OTHERS.—JUDGMENT.

Judgment was delivered in this action. The plaintiff, Yeung Shin Kam, claimed \$82.32 damages from Hon. F. A. Cooper, Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Mr. H. B. H. Lethbridge, Dr. F. W. Clark, Mr. N. J. Ede, and Police Constable Rae.

Mr. J. Hastings (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor) appeared for the defendants.

The Court found for the plaintiff on the issue of trespass or no trespass, and for the defendants on the issue of the amount of damages; the \$60 paid into Court to go to plaintiff.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said—On the 8th May last some officers from the Sanitary Board proceeded to houses Nos. 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, and 90, Queen's Road East, for the purpose of inspecting the sanitary condition of these houses. In the course of their dealing with the houses portions of the back part of the cocklofts at Nos. 80, 84, 86, 88, and 90 were pulled down. It appears that from each of these cocklofts on the ground floor three joists and the planking were pulled down. In the case of No. 82 the whole of the cockloft was pulled down and the whole of the planking was removed. In the case of the other houses it appears that three joists in Nos. 80, 84, 86, and 88 were removed together with the planking, and that in the case of No. 90, the planking only was removed, the joists having since been discovered on the cockloft. The plaintiff, in his petition, alleged that trespass had been committed and claimed damages to the extent of \$82.32. Defendants, in their answer, denied and justified the trespass and also paid the sum of \$60 into Court. The issues therefore appeared to be two, that is, (1) whether there was a trespass or not, and (2) if there was a trespass, what was the damage done? I find that the original entry of the officers of the Sanitary Board was lawful, that they entered with reasonable notice, and that the officers who made the visitation were authorised in writing according to by-law 22 of Ordinance 15 of 1894. Then the question arises, did they do anything after their original entry which would make them trespassers from the beginning? Now they did two things. They pulled down the part of the cocklofts, namely, the joists and planking in five out of the six houses, and in the other house, No. 82, they pulled down the whole of the cockloft. I think that for the purposes of this suit I need not decide whether the pulling down of the back part of the cocklofts for the purpose of securing ventilation was such a thorough cleansing or disinfecting as was contemplated by by-law 22. If I decide the other point, as to whether the removal was wrongful or lawful, I shall practically decide the issues between the parties. With regard, however, to the removing of the back portion of the cocklofts, or rather I should say the taking down of the back portions of the cocklofts—the joists and planks—I wish to observe that steps taken to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect must naturally vary according to the nature of the disease to be combated, according to the material or premises to be cleansed or disinfected, and according to the degree of dirt or insanitation existing. I was very properly urged to give to the words "cleanse" and "disinfect" their natural meaning. Upon turning to Webster's Dictionary and looking at the definition of the word "cleanse" I find the following:—"To purify; to make clean; to remove filth, or foul matter of any kind, or by any process whatever, as by washing, rubbing, scouring, scraping, purging, ventilation, &c.; for example, to cleanse the hands or face; to cleanse a garment; to cleanse the bowels; to

cleanse an infected house." Therefore, without actually deciding—which I would not care to do unless I had further scientific evidence upon the matter, and it not being necessary for the purposes of this case to decide that point—the question of whether the taking down of the back part of these cocklofts in order to obtain ventilation was an act which would constitute the officers of the Board trespassers *ab initio*, I am of opinion that the removal of any portion of the cocklofts taken down was certainly not within the powers of the Board, and that constitutes a misfeasance which converts the legal entry, the original lawful entry of the officers of the Sanitary Board, into trespass *ab initio*. I can see nothing in by-law 22 to justify any such removal from off the premises of the joists and planking taken down as was done in this case. If I turn to by-law 23 I find that by that by-law power is given to the Sanitary Board, under certain conditions and with respect to certain articles, to remove in covered vehicles, with such precautions and in such manner as the Board shall from time to time direct, those things which are to be thoroughly disinfected, and which are to be returned to the owner or owners thereof. Now, the fact that in by-law 23 you have special provisions made for the removal of certain specified articles—all articles of clothing or bedding and all articles whatsoever—by the by, that word "whatsoever" seems to largely extend the operation of the section of Ordinance 15 of 1894 under which this by-law is made, viz., that all articles of clothing or bedding or all other articles whatsoever which have been in contact with persons or articles in any way affected by such diseases shall be removed from those premises goes to negative the existence of any such power under by-law 22. In by-law 24 there is the power to destroy any bedding, clothing, furniture, or any other article which cannot be disinfected or which ought, for any other sanitary reason, to be destroyed; but that can only be done under a certificate in writing of a duly authorised officer of the Sanitary Board or of a legally qualified and registered medical practitioner. Therefore, not only is there nothing in by-law 22 to justify the removal of things taking down, but by-laws 23 and 24 point in fact in an opposite direction. By-law 23 says they may be removed under certain conditions, but they must be returned. No return took place in this case. Now I come to the question of damages. On that point I am of opinion that the estimates and measurements furnished by the defendant are the correct estimates and measurements. With regard to this portion of the case, I find that the best China fir was not used in these cocklofts; I find that all the joists in No. 82 were, on the second day of the trial, on the premises; I find that no joists were removed from No. 90; and I find that the extra portions in 86 and 88, which had been removed, or, at any rate, which were absent, had been removed by the officers of the Sanitary Board. This, of course, reduces the damages to a figure below the amount paid into Court, so I have not taken the trouble to calculate the exact amount of damages upon the basis of fact which I have just stated—the damages which have been incurred by the plaintiff. In the result the finding is for the plaintiff on the issue of trespass or no trespass, and the finding is for the defendants on the issue of the amount of damages. Now, the question is, what judgment should be entered upon these findings? After consideration of section 8 of Ordinance 5 of 1856 and the Common Law Procedure Act of 1852, in so far as the sections of that Act govern the practice, and after considering the general rules on the subject of payments into Court and the effect of section 35 in the Code of Civil Procedure, and after perusing the judgment in *Goutard v. Carr*, Law Reports 13, Q.B.D., note page 598, *Berdan v. Greenwood*, Law Reports 3, Exchequer 252, and *Wheeler v. United Telephone Company*, Law Reports, 13 Q.B.D., 597, I am of opinion that the effect of the anomalous—I cannot call them anything else—the anomalous rules in practice in Hongkong in regard to payments into Court, is that my judgment must be—(1) That the plaintiff is absolutely entitled to the \$60 paid into Court; (2) That the general judgment shall be for the defendants with general costs

of the cause; (3) That the plaintiff is entitled to the costs of the particular issue, namely, that of the trespass, which I find in his favour.

Mr. Hastings—With regard to the question of costs, my Lord, your Lordship has found the defendants entitled to general costs of the cause. I submit they will only be entitled to any costs from the date of the payment into Court. I think that is a matter that scarcely requires argument.

His Lordship—Yes, I take it to be that the defendants shall be entitled to the costs of the suit after the payment of the money into Court.

Mr. Hastings—Your Lordship has not referred—I dare say you have taken it into consideration—to the case of *Burdon v. Greenwood*. That was an action brought principally to sustain a right, or to enforce a right, and your Lordship has found that right in our favour; therefore we are entitled to the general costs of the action. In the words of Lord Justice Cotton, in *Burdon v. Greenwood*, where a judge is satisfied that an action is brought for the purpose of testing a right he has power to give the general costs of the action to the plaintiffs, although they do not succeed in proving the damage in Court.

His Lordship—What do you understand by "a right"?

Mr. Hastings—The question of trespass or no trespass—whether the Sanitary Board were justified in doing what they did. Your Lordship has found they were not justified, and that they were trespassers *ab initio*. That was the primary object of bringing the action.

His Lordship—You are trying the right of the Sanitary Board and not your own right.

Mr. Hastings—The right of my clients not to have their property interfered with by the Sanitary Board.

His Lordship—The real question tried was, were the Sanitary Board right in doing what they did?

Mr. Hastings—Quite so; on that we have succeeded and I submit that Lord Justice Cotton's words apply to this case and that we should have the general costs of the action. I ask your Lordship to reconsider that point and to give us the general costs of the action.

His Lordship—Do you notice that in the judgment delivered by the Lord Justice it distinctly refers to right of property which is in dispute?

Mr. Hastings—This is a right of property.

Mr. Johnson—A right of property means a title to property.

His Lordship—That is how I looked upon it. Lord Justice Cotton merely used the word "right," but at the very beginning of the judgment the words "right to property" mean title to property. That is how I looked upon it, and I very carefully considered the point.

Mr. Hastings—Of course if your Lordship has carefully considered the point—I thought it was not confined to the question of title to property.

His Lordship—It was the strong impression on my mind that it was.

Mr. Hastings—Your Lordship gives them the general costs of the action from the time of the payment into Court, and you give the plaintiff costs, if any, of the issue on which he has succeeded?

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Hastings—There is the point as to whether we were justified up to the time of payment into Court. There is no doubt our action was perfectly justified and in order, and therefore I submit we should have the general costs of the action up to the date of the payment into Court.

His Lordship—Have you any authority on that point?

Mr. Hastings—It appears to rest upon the basis of common sense. Our action was justified and properly brought; therefore naturally we ought to have the costs of it. Your Lordship sees there was no tender before the action.

His Lordship—No.

Mr. Hastings—If there had been our action would have been wrong at the beginning. Our action was clearly in order until the payment into Court was made by the defendants. Therefore I submit we are clearly entitled to the costs up to that date.

His Lordship—Have you anything to say on the point, Mr. Johnson?

Mr. Johnson—I think, my Lord, that the case you quoted, *Burdon v. Greenwood*, shows that if the plaintiffs succeed in the main issue they are entitled to costs on the main issue, and nothing more.

His Lordship—I have a note here of the words in the judgment. "General judgment will be for the defendants with general costs of the case, and the plaintiffs are entitled to costs on the particular issue."

Mr. Hastings—Surely that would argue an injustice. It comes to this, that we would have to pay them the costs of the action before they paid the money into Court. Surely we are entitled to our costs.

His Lordship—You will be entitled to any costs of evidence Mr. Danby has given, or costs of reports he has made, but not on the question of damages.

Mr. Hastings—Quite so.

His Lordship—If I were to give you general costs up to that time, you would be able to include costs of any survey made by Mr. Danby.

Mr. Hastings—Including the survey made by Mr. Danby as to what had been done by the Sanitary Board and on the question of damages. Clearly that evidence was necessary in order to prove the issue on which we succeeded. That is a matter for the Taxing Master.

His Lordship—Could not Mr. Danby have simply gone down there and said "I saw that joists had been removed and so many planks taken away"? He could simply have said that they were not there. Was a plan necessary for that?

Mr. Hastings—I think so, to show what had been taken away. I submit we are entitled to the general costs up to the time of payment into Court. I have no authority, but I ask your Lordship to reserve your decision on the point until I can look up the authorities. It is plain and so clear.

His Lordship—It is plain up to a certain point—as I am advised at present—that you would not be entitled to costs of survey made by Mr. Danby for damages.

Mr. Hastings—Take the cost of the issue of the summons. Surely we are entitled to that.

His Lordship—After all, is it not a question for the Registrar?

Mr. Hastings—I do not think so.

His Lordship—If you like to reserve the point and argue it on another day I should be perfectly willing to hear the argument.

Mr. Johnson—If your Lordship gives plaintiff's counsel leave to re-argue the question I will argue it at the same time if he can find any case.

His Lordship—Simply on the point as to what is the meaning of the costs on your successful issue. I will reserve that point for argument.

Mr. Hastings—As to whether it shall include the whole of the costs up to the time of the payment into Court?

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Hastings—I say we are entitled to costs up to the time of payment into Court.

His Lordship said he would hear the arguments in Chambers on Friday afternoon.

17th July.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE HONGKONG, CANTON, AND MACAO
STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED, v.
PESTONJEE FRAMJEE DAVEY.

The plaintiff Company applied for a foreclosure order.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings, of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), appeared for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Francis said the proceedings were taken *ex parte* under leave granted by the Court under section 12 of the Code, and the action was for a foreclosure order. The plaintiffs' petition set forth that the Company was incorporated under the Companies Ordinances 1865 and 1890, and the defendant was a merchant formerly residing and carrying on business in Hongkong, but at present residing in Bombay. By an indenture of mortgage, dated 12th July, 1889, and made between the defendant and the plaintiffs, the

defendant, in consideration of the sum of \$20,000, covenanted with the plaintiffs to pay them that sum on the 12th July, 1891, or at any time thereafter, upon one calendar month's previous notice to repay the sum, and in the meantime to pay to the plaintiffs interest on the sum at the rate of seven per cent. per annum by equal monthly instalments on the 12th of each month. Defendant further assigned to the plaintiffs certain properties, with full power to the plaintiffs, in default of payment, to enter into and hold and enjoy the premises, and take the rents and profits thereon. The defendant had not repaid the money or any part thereof, and no interest had been paid since April, 1895. Since November, 1895, the plaintiff Company had been in possession of the properties and had received the rents thereon. On the 29th November, 1889, defendant, in consideration of the sum of \$8,000 lent to him by the plaintiffs, covenanted with the plaintiffs to pay them that sum on the 29th November, 1890, and in the meantime to pay plaintiffs interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum in monthly instalments. No interest had been paid since September, 1893, and plaintiffs had been in possession of property assigned to them by the defendant since December, 1895. The plaintiffs now prayed that an account be taken of what was due by the defendant, that the defendant be ordered to pay the amount found due with costs, or, on his failure to do so, for an order of foreclosure.

Mr. Thomas Arnold, the secretary of the plaintiff Company, gave evidence of the transactions.

His Lordship granted the order applied for.

18th July.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

DISCHARGED.

The Acting Attorney-General (Hon. H. E. Pollock)—Before the jury are called, there are two cases, my Lord, in which, after considering the depositions carefully, I have arrived at the conclusion it would not be proper to file any information. I consider that there is no possibility of obtaining a conviction in these two cases. One is a case against Wong Kai, charged under Ordinance 11 of 1890 (Women and Girls Protection Ordinance) and there is another case, my Lord, also under the same Ordinance, against three people, Tong Mun, Tsang Ut Fan, and Chau or Chan Lok. I would ask your Lordship to order these people to be brought up so that they can be discharged by proclamation in the usual way.

A *nolle prosequi* was therefore entered in each of the cases and the accused were discharged by proclamation.

THE "MARTHA" SHOOTING CASE.

The Acting Attorney-General asked his Lordship to fix a day for the hearing of the charge of shooting two coolies brought against Peter Gruenwald, second engineer of the *Martha*. It was a special jury case, and Mr. Francis appeared for the defence.

In reply to his Lordship the Acting Attorney-General said the case would last two days.

His Lordship fixed Thursday next for the hearing.

A SPECIAL JUROR EXCUSED.

The Acting Attorney-General said Mr. Sassoon, a special juror, had engaged his passage to go to Japan. He understood Mr. Sassoon had engaged his passage before he was summoned. Two of the special jurors had been excused under medical certificate, and Mr. Sassoon would be the third.

The Chief Justice excused Mr. Sassoon from attendance.

ROBBERY BY A SERVANT.

Wong Yau, a boy who was employed by Mr. David Kennedy, Causeway Bay, was charged with stealing two gold watches, three gold scarf pins, three gold scarf rings, two gold whistles, one Chinese gold coin, one gold medal, one silver medal, and \$30 in money, the property of Mr. Kennedy.

The Acting Attorney-General prosecuted. The jurors were—Messrs. D. Currie, J. M. do Rozario, F. W. Rapp, G. W. Millward, C. Tyndale-Lea, Abdool Gaze, and L. A. Rose.

The jury found the prisoner guilty. There was another charge against the prisoner arising out of the same circumstances, but this was not proceeded with. His Lordship passed a sentence of nine months imprisonment and ordered all the property found on the prisoner to be handed back to the prosecutor.

THE PROTECTION OF YOUNG GIRLS.

Leung Yung, a woman, was charged with unlawfully taking part in bringing a girl into the colony with intent to sell her for the purpose of prostitution. The case was not concluded when the Court rose.

20th July.

The woman charged on Saturday with unlawfully bringing a girl into the colony was sent to gaol for eight months with hard labour. Another woman charged with a similar offence was sent to gaol for twelve months. The Court adjourned until Thursday.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 16th July. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present—Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. H. B. Lethbridge (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

ILLNESS OF THE COLONIAL SURGEON.

The President regretted to inform the Board that the Colonial Surgeon was unable to attend the meeting owing to illness.

PLAGUE AT AMOY.

The following letter was laid before the Board:—

H.B.M. Consulate, Amoy,
24th June, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that this morning the Port Doctor notified me that there is a marked decrease in the prevalence of bubonic plague in this port, but that there are still a few cases.—I have, &c.,

H. KING,

Assistant in Charge.

The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

CHOLERA AT SINGAPORE.

A communication was received from the Colonial Secretary at Singapore having reference to the presence of cholera at that port, and a statement was enclosed showing that five cases had occurred between the 9th and 16th June.

A second letter was received from the same source forwarding a copy of the return of cases of cholera which had occurred during the week following the dispatch of the last report, and stating that as the disease seemed to have passed away no further returns would be sent unless there was another outbreak. Some cases had occurred at Penang and particulars would be sent weekly. The return showed that at Singapore one death occurred on the way to the hospital, and three were discovered after death.

WATER DISTRIBUTION AND SEWERAGE WORKS.

The Director of Public Works forwarded to the Board copies of plans showing the water distribution and sewerage works in the city of Victoria.

THE OBSTRUCTION OF BACKYARDS.

The following letter was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
30th June, 1896.

Sir,—In reply to your letter No. 100 of the 23rd inst. I am directed to inform you that the Government is advised that Sanitary by-law No. 5 has no retrospective operation, and that there is no power, as Ordinance 15 of 1894 now stands, to substitute any by-law for by-law No. 5 which could legally have a retrospective operation.

Furthermore, I am to point out that it would appear from the letters of the Permanent Committee and Housing Committee to the Colonial Secretary, dated respectively the 29th June, 1894, and 13th August, 1894, that it was intended that the new provisions with

regard to backyards should apply to already existing houses, and I am to add that it would be necessary for the Board to make out a very strong case before the Government would feel justified in passing any law interfering retrospectively with backyards long since built over.

With regard to the question upon whom lies the onus of proof as to the date of the erection of obstructions in backyards, I am to state that his Excellency is advised that it is not possible to give any general opinion, because the circumstances of different cases vary widely.

In conclusion, I am to inform you that in all cases of any doubt or difficulty, the Board should ask for the assistance of the law officers of the Crown.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The following minute was attached:—

The Secretary—Submitted. Copies of the letters referred to in the second paragraph of this letter ought to be in this office, but unfortunately they are not. Had the regular course been followed in the somewhat extensive correspondence which I understand passed between the Colonial Secretary and the so-called Permanent Committee, then the non-existence of copies of the letters in question in this office would lie on the officer who was at the time performing the duties of Secretary to the Board. But as the Board either acquiesced in or approved the position which the Committee they had elected arrogated to themselves in communicating direct with the Colonial Secretary, and as the Colonial Secretary appears to have carried on a correspondence with them, the fault that a copy of this correspondence does not exist in the office cannot be laid at the door of either the Acting Secretary or myself. However, the practical point now at issue is to get the letters referred to, and I attach a draft of a letter requesting the Colonial Secretary to supply them.

The letter referred to in this minute was as follows:—

Hongkong, 2nd July, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1015 of the 30th ultimo on the subject of backyard obstructions and to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Board at your earliest convenience with copies of the letter referred to in paragraph 2 of your letter.—I have, &c.,

HUGH MCCALLUM,
Secretary.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

The following was the reply:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
3rd July, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 104 of the 2nd instant and to forward for the information of the Board the enclosed copies of the letters from the Permanent Committee and the Housing Committee.—I have the honour, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Copies of the letters were published in the Press at the time they were printed.

To these letters the following minutes were appended:—

The Secretary—Letters asked for have been sent and are attached hereto. I have read them carefully and I must say I fail to find anything approaching a clear statement by either of the Committees that the Ordinance they recommend to be passed should not apply to existing houses so far as the obstruction of backyards are concerned. On the contrary, the cry is, let existing houses be lighted and ventilated as far as it is practicable to do so. In the letter of the Housing Committee, dated the 25th July, it is clearly and distinctly stated that no backyards should be roofed in, and that their recommendations are confined to existing houses. In the letter of the so-called Permanent Committee there is a paragraph which states that in existing houses there can be no remedy, but the right of visit and search of every Chinese house with a view to enforcing cleanliness and the laws as regards mezzanine floors, etc. Does the "etc." not include the law as to backyards? The "etc." seems to me to be as likely to mean that as the phrase "no remedy" should mean they are to be excluded. Be that as it may, the practical points at issue are—(1.) Has the present law on the subject of backyards a retrospective action? His Excellency has been advised that it has not. (2.) Is it necessary that the law should be made retrospective? If the public health of the colony is of the importance it is held to be, then there is only one answer, and that is—it is absolutely necessary. There is of course one alternative re-

medy, but it is clumsy, slow, and full of litigation. It is for the Medical Officer of Health to decide whether houses that have enclosed yards so as to prevent the floors from being adequately lighted and ventilated are fit for human habitation. If not, they will have to be closed, till such time as they are made fit.

The Medical Officer of Health.—The report of the Permanent Committee under date June 29th, 1894, deals apparently only with certain scheduled houses; that under date August 13th, 1894, deals with houses built subsequently to that date. I cannot understand therefore why these two reports should have been quoted in support of the statement that the provisions with regard to backyards were not intended by the Permanent Committee to apply to existing buildings, while no mention is made of the Committee's report of July 25th, 1894, which distinctly states that it relates to the sanitary improvement of existing houses, and the last clause of paragraph 6 says that "the Committee are of opinion that in no case should a backyard be roofed in either wholly or in part." Evidently therefore it was intended, at least by the Permanent Committee, if not by the framers of the Ordinance, that the new provisions with regard to backyards should apply to already existing houses. As to my action in directing prosecutions under this by-law without first consulting the law officers of the Crown, I can only say that I have hitherto been accustomed (incorrectly as it now appears) to regard a series of convictions obtained before a Stipendiary Magistrate under any Ordinance or by-law as in some measure, confirming the legality of the proceedings, and as such a series of convictions had been obtained in this colony, under by-law 5 made under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, prior to my arrival in the colony, I felt justified in concluding that the question of retrospection had been considered by the Court, and that prosecutions under this by-law were legal, whether the obstruction had been erected prior to or subsequent to the approval of the said by-law by the Legislative Council. It is true that Messrs. Leigh and Orange have replied to some few of the notices recently issued that "we are informed that you have no legal right to issue any such notice," but as Messrs. Leigh and Orange gave no legal authority for their information or opinion, nor in fact any clue as to the grounds of the alleged illegality of our notice, I did not consider it necessary to ask that the matter be referred to the law officers of the Crown, until Messrs. Leigh and Orange had proved the correctness of their contention by securing the reversal of the decision hitherto obtained in the Police Court. In view of this decision and its confirmation by the law officers of the Crown, I would strongly advise the Sanitary Board to urge upon the Government the necessity for so amending the present law as to enable the Board to enforce the provision of adequate ventilation of domestic buildings by the opening of all backyards, whether used as kitchens or not. There are still about 800 backyards in the city of Victoria, west of the Hongkong Club, which are obstructed in excess of the provisions of by-law 5, and in addition a large number of kitchens of back-to-back houses which have no ventilation whatever (unless we regard an eighteen inch square smoke-hole in that light), while many of the squares, courts, alleys, lanes, and passages in the rear of and between adjacent properties have been so occluded as to effectually prevent the ventilation of these dwellings. Powers are required to open out all these spaces, whether obstructed recently or not, for I am convinced that by no other means can these dwellings be rendered even reasonably habitable.

The President.—The letter of the 20th July from the Housing Committee deals exclusively with improvements to existing houses. (See par. 7.) On reference to paragraph 6 it will be seen that the Committee recommend that "in no case should a backyard be roofed in whole or in part." The letter of the 29th June, so far as it deals with the subject of structural alterations, is composed of the radical alteration of the general arrangements. The letter of August 13th deals with new houses. It therefore appears that the letter of the 25th July is the only one affecting the question of the structure of backyards, and it is clear that the recommendations contained therein apply to existing houses.

The President.—In reply to the Colonial Secretary's letter I propose that a copy of the minutes on these papers be sent to the Colonial Secretary for the information of his Excellency, the Governor, and also that a letter be written requesting that the attention of the Government be called to the recommendations made by the Medical Officer of Health.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE seconded.

In reply to Mr. Ede, the PRESIDENT said it had been ruled that the Board had no control

over any obstruction in back yards which existed before the Ordinance was passed. The resolution was carried.

A DESERVING GRATUITY GRANTED.

The following letter concerning the granting of a gratuity to the widow of the late interpreter Shan Tin Yau was received:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
20th June, 1896.

Sir,—With reference to my letter No. 893 of the 12th instant I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to reconsider the case of the widow of the late Shan Tin Yau, and to grant her a gratuity of one hundred dollars, which sum the Treasurer has been authorised to pay to you on her behalf.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics showed a death rate of 11.3 per 1,000 for the week ended 20th June, as against 20 for the corresponding week of last year. For the week ended June 27th the death rate was 16.9 as against 24.4 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 4th July the rate was 13.8 as against 24.6 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 11th July the rate was 10.30 as compared with 20.4.

PETITION FROM SWINE DEALERS.

A petition was laid before the Board from eight swine dealers requesting to be allowed to use the hand scale for weighing swine instead of the platform scale. Various complaints were also made. The Secretary, in a minute, said there was no ground for the complaints and said that the balance weighed a single pig more rapidly than the steel yard.

It was resolved to refuse the request contained in the petition.

EXTENSION OF LEAVE FOR THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON.

A letter was read from the Secretary of State intimating that Mr. C. V. Ladds had had his leave of absence extended, with half salary, for the three months from the 17th December next, subject to any objection raised by the officer administering the Government of Hongkong. Mr. C. V. Ladds' letter to the Secretary of State applying for the extra leave was enclosed. He stated that he was anxious to go through a complete course of the study of bacteriology before he returned to the colony, and that he required the extra three months to finish the course.

THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ORDINANCE.

The Colonial Secretary forwarded a copy of the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance and said that His Excellency the Governor would be glad to receive any observations members had to make on the Bill. The Bill was read clause by clause and suggestions were made which the Secretary was instructed to forward to the Colonial Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board then adjourned until Thursday week.

DEATH TO THE PLAGUE BACILLUS.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. YERSIN.

On the 15th July a *Daily Press* reporter had an interview with Dr. Yersin, who is now staying in Hongkong, and obtained from him some interesting particulars concerning his serum cure for plague. It will doubtless be remembered that the doctor came to Hongkong in 1894, having been specially sent by the Pasteur Institute at Paris to study the effects of the terrible scourge that afflicted the colony in that year. Since then he has been making a series of experiments with the plague bacillus, the result being that he has discovered what he confidently believes to be a cure for the malady; indeed he has lately made experiments which prove the efficacy of his valuable discovery, and Bishop Chausse, of Canton, gave the other day an interesting account in the *Daily Press* of a case which was cured at Canton. At Nha Trang, in Cochinchina, the doctor possesses several horses from which he has obtained the serum, and from what we learn we have every reason to believe that he has solved a problem which has puzzled the medical world for long ages.

Dr. Yersin was very willing to see our representative, his one regret being that he could not speak English sufficiently well to make himself understood. However, if we may repeat somebody else's joke, he spoke French exceedingly well, and his answers to the volley of questions put to him were given in a manner which indicated that he had unbounded confidence in his important discovery. The first question had reference to his visit to the Government Civil Hospital last month, and he states that he was most amiably received by the doctors there. Unfortunately he arrived at the institution too late as there were no cases of plague that he could deal with. A case must be tackled instantly the disease is diagnosed, because he does not pretend that his serum will cure a case two or three days old.

After leaving the hospital here, doctor, you went to Amoy. Was your visit successful?

In every way. Plague is very bad in Amoy, and I myself took charge of twenty-three cases. I injected the serum into all those patients and fifteen, to my own knowledge, were cured, two died, and of the remaining six I cannot speak because I left before I had time to watch the progress of the cure.

Then you have actually cured fifteen cases?

I am certain of that number, and of course I am perfectly certain that they were all plague cases.

Did you see the patients in the Amoy hospital?

They were all in the Chinese hospital.

And treated by Chinese doctors?

Chinese doctors were there, but two English doctors visited the place each day and examined the patients.

Why did you leave Amoy so soon, doctor, considering that you were doing so much good?

Ah, he exclaimed with rather a disappointed look, *le serum était fini*!

Then you cannot experiment further in Hongkong?

I have no serum left! But, fortunately, there is practically no plague in Hongkong; in Amoy it was very bad.

What do you intend to do now?

I shall go to Canton and Macao.

On professional business?

Oh no, for a walk—for pleasure.

And of course you will obtain more serum?

Yes, I expect to go to Saigon by the next mail steamer, and then over to Nha Trang.

Then, doctor, to conclude, I may state positively that you have cured patients suffering from plague?

Certainly. In my own mind I am confident I have cured twenty-one cases, but as I have told you I can only speak definitely about fifteen cases; I shall have to wait some days before I learn about the others.

There is one more question, doctor. How long does the serum take to effect a cure?

Twelve hours, on one condition—that the case is taken in hand as soon as the symptoms develop. If I inject a patient with the serum as soon as he shows signs of plague he will be cured and able to leave the hospital twelve hours afterwards.

Our representative here wished the doctor every success in his worthy work and took his leave.

At the Magistracy yesterday, before Hon. Commander Hastings, John Ullathorne, a seaman from the American ship *Paramatta*, was charged with disorderly conduct in the Sailors' Home and with assaulting Geo. Lipphardt, the watchman there. It was stated by the complainant that defendant went to the Sailors' Home at 11.30 p.m. on the 18th inst. and was very noisy. He had been in the Home for fourteen days. The watchman advised him to go to bed, whereupon he knocked him down and struck him. Assistance was called and P.C. 49 came up and arrested the man. Defendant denied striking the watchman. His Worship imposed a fine of \$3 or 10 days' imprisonment on the first charge and \$7 or 28 days on the second.

REVIEWS.

John Chinaman: His Ways and Notions. By Rev. G. COCKBURN, M.A., formerly of Iohang, Edinburgh. J. Gardner, Hill, 37, George Street, 1896.

MR. COCKBURN gives us a skillfully drawn, truthful, and sympathetic portrait of John Chinaman as we know him in daily life. There is no bias displayed, no straining after meretricious effect. On the whole the portrait presented strikes us as being about the best we have seen of the subject, and the book is interesting in every page. Other writers have gone more deeply into the subject, or elaborated it more, but no one so far as our recollection carries us, has succeeded in giving a more striking likeness. The first chapter is devoted to "Primitive survival," and amongst other curious things concerning funeral customs we are told that "as soon as life is extinct a priest is employed to write a letter to the devil giving the deceased a good character." It will be understood, of course, that Mr. Cockburn speaks more especially of the customs and superstitions prevailing in the neighbourhood of Iohang, and as every district has its own local peculiarities what he says will not apply universally. The following tale respecting Chang Chih-tung is interesting:

"The souls of animals, as well as evil spirits, often enter the bodies of young children. Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of Nanking, is reputed to be animated by the soul of a monkey, which was kept as a pet in his paternal home and disappeared about the time of his birth. His Excellency bears several marks on his body similar to those on the monkey, and proof positive is found in his personal habits, which are decidedly simian. The great man never bathes and seldom washes—at the best, a Chinaman's ablutions consist in rubbing himself down with a damp cloth. The Viceroy never changes his underclothes, but puts on an upper garment to repair the waste underneath. He never undresses, and seldom goes to bed, but doubles himself up in his arm chair for a nap at odd moments. With all this he enjoys the best of health, and his activity is incessant. Report has it that he is well acquainted with the story himself, and by no means resents it."

In the chapter on "Government and Mandarins" we are told that "The right of rebellion is part of the Chinese constitution. A successful rebel would at once be hailed as emperor by divine right. The emperor *de facto* is to every good Confucianist the emperor *de jure*." As to the courage of the Chinaman, Mr. Cockburn says:—

"The Chinaman does not like soldiers and soldiering. He has no ambition for bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth. Good iron is not made into nails nor are good men turned into soldiers. But the Chinaman is no coward, although the stigma is often fastened to him. He is a plain matter of fact man, and does not see the glory of making his body a target for a miserable shilling a day. When there are bullets flying he endeavours to get out of the way. When tired of his life he commits suicide; but he faces danger like a man in the course of his calling when there is money to be made."

Concerning opium we are told that China already produces three-fourths of the quantity she consumes, and that opium was known and grown in China before the East India Company sent an ounce to Canton. Also in another chapter our author says:—"Opium smoking is on all fours with whisky drinking. The opium ghost I know to be quite as bad as the alcoholic wreck, despite a hundred blue books to the contrary. I am also aware that nearly every Chinaman at Iohang indulges in a little opium about the New Year and other high occasions; yet there is no sign of the people being poisoned wholesale. But no Chinaman ever defends opium on moral and very seldom upon medical grounds as a cure for consumption or antidote to ague. The seller of it will tell you that it pays, and the smoker that he likes it, but both admit that it is an expensive luxury and an insidious foe, which a man is very much better without."

In view of the recent discussion on our local Light and Pass Ordinance it is interesting to learn that at Iohang, when out after dark every

Chinaman is liable to arrest who does not carry a lantern with his name and address conspicuously written upon it. The rule is not strictly enforced in peaceful times, but as there are no street lamps, and the pitfalls are many in the ill-kept streets, such a lantern is usually a necessary prevention against broken bones.

We are tempted to make many extracts from this interesting book, but as that would not be fair to the author or publisher, we will content ourselves by adding, to those already given, the following—

The Chinaman knows how to cultivate the water as well as the land. He rears oysters extensively, and even contrives to stimulate the bivalve to produce pearls. The Yangtze affords an inexhaustible supply of some twenty varieties of fish, and its waters are constantly swept by every description of net and line. Cormorants are trained to catch fish, and at Ichang, when the net is put down, a tame otter is sent to raise the fish from the bottom, in much the same way as sportsmen employ a dog to find the game. At the proper season myriads of young sile are caught by gauze nets in the quiet nooks, and immediately transferred to a large earthenware jar. When this is full of tiny fish, about an inch in length, it is put in a creel, which the vendor carries on his back into districts removed from large streams. He sells the contents by the cupful to farmers to put in their ponds and reservoirs. Each cupful taken out, which has the appearance of thick broth, he replaces with a cupful of water, giving the fish room to grow as he peddles his ware. One wonders if the Fishery Board, with science and high salaries, has done as much to increase the food supply of the country as these humble Chinamen who pursue pisciculture for an honest penny.

Hakka Made Easy. Part I. By J. DYER BALL, M.B.A.S., etc. Hongkong: Kelly and Walsh Limited. 1896.

Our local Ollendorff's latest contribution to the study of Chinese refers to the Hakka dialect. Some eleven years ago, he tells us in the preface, he prepared a small pamphlet for learning the Hakka, taking for its basis Mr. Giles's "Handbook of the Swatow." It has been felt that a larger book was necessary for those who wished to gain more than a mere smattering of Hakka. The present work is an attempt to meet this want, and it contains thirty-five lessons, amidst which are included those in the smaller book. In an introduction we have some interesting notes on the Hakka people and the Hakka language. The lessons themselves are arranged on a progressive system, commencing with simple phrases and proceeding to compound sentences. The book will prove useful to students of the dialect, who will welcome the promised second part when it appears.

THE MURDER OF A LUKONG

INQUEST AND VERDICT.

On the 16th of July Hon. Commander Hastings, Acting Police Magistrate, held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Chinese Constable 218, Lai Tak Shing, who was shot by a thief in Chuk Hing Lane on the morning of Sunday, the 12th inst.

Police Sergeant Hannah said—At 9.30 a.m. on the 12th inst. a report was made to me at the Central Police Station by Mr. Cheung, and in consequence I sent Chinese Constable No. 218, Lai Tak Shing, to arrest a man named Lai Mit. About fifteen or twenty minutes after sending him out a man named Lo Ling came running into the station and reported that the constable had been shot near Gage Street by Lai Mit.

Mr. Cheung said—I am a cushion seller in the Cheung Hing Theatre. Lai Mit has been employed there for the past eight or nine years. On the night of the 11th inst. I slept in a room where he and several others were sleeping. In the morning I missed my jacket and saw everyone was in the room except Lai Mit. I suspected Lai Mit and reported the theft at the Central Police Station soon afterwards. Constable No. 218 and I left the Police Station together and turned to the left along Hollywood Road, then into Cochrane Street and Wellington Street. Before we got to Wellington Street we saw Lai Mit walking up Gutzlaff Street. As soon as he saw us he quickened his pace and pointed

him out to the deceased, who ran, and Lai Mit at once commenced to run up Gutzlaff Street. He then ran down Lyndhurst Terrace to the junction of Gage Street, and was followed by deceased into Gutzlaff Street again. When I turned into Gage Street from Lyndhurst Terrace I saw Lai Mit running, followed at a distance of about ten feet by the deceased. They then entered Chuk Hing Lane, and when I reached the lane they had disappeared round a corner in the lane. As I was turning the corner I heard the report of a firearm ahead of me. I saw deceased standing with his back towards me, while Lai Mit was about ten feet away. I saw no firearms. Lai Mit was wearing long sleeves. I turned and ran back into Gage Street and laid down in a greengrocer's stall at the corner of Cochrane Street and Gage Street. I remained there as long as it would take to smoke a cigarette, and then I went back into Gage Street and saw Lo Ling supporting the deceased at the entrance to Chuk Hing Lane and Cochrane Street. I then went to the Police Station and made a report.

Lo Ling, an informer, said—I saw the deceased running after a man, whom I tried to stop. Before he got into Gage Street he pointed a revolver at me and I then turned to my right, and the man turned into Gage Street. When I heard the report of firearms I put my face to the wall and covered my face with my hand. When I uncovered my face I saw the deceased staggering in Gutzlaff Street. I supported the deceased and put him into a chair. He was groaning, and he told me he had been shot. He was bleeding from a wound in the abdomen. When I got to him he asked me where the prisoner was, and I then ran up and saw a man standing in Gage Street, at the entrance to Chuk Hing Lane. He pointed a revolver at me and shouted, "If you run after me I'll hit you." Deceased then called me back. I might identify the man if he was arrested speedily.

Dr. Atkinson said—The deceased was admitted to the Government Civil Hospital at 10 a.m. on the 12th inst. He was suffering from a bullet wound in the abdomen. He died at 4 a.m. on the 14th inst. I made a post-mortem examination and found that the bullet had wounded the small intestines in three places and also the pelvis. The cause of death was shock and peritonitis produced by the bullet wound.

The Magistrate returned the following verdict:—Wilful murder of No. 218, Lai Tak Shing, committed by a man named Lai Mit. Warrant to issue for Lai Mit.

CAPTURE OF LAI MIT.

The vigorous and persistent search organised by the Hongkong Police for Lai Mit, the murderer of Chinese Constable No. 218, has happily been rewarded. On Monday afternoon U Po, a smart Chinese detective, walked into the Central Police Station with the welcome news that he had caught Lai Mit. The circumstances of the arrest reflect the greatest credit on the captor. Since the murder on Sunday morning, the 12th inst., the colony and the surrounding districts have been scoured by detectives, and the keenest watch has been maintained for the murderer and the fullest inquiries made respecting his whereabouts. Various reports reached the police from persons who alleged that they had seen him, and no stone was left unturned to thoroughly investigate the truth of the reports. Inspector Stanton has had a particularly busy time in directing operations, while for the past three or four days Inspector Quincey has been in Canton in order to look for the wanted man there. One of the rumours which reached the police was that Lai Mit very soon after the murder went to Yaumati in a launch and remained there a short time while he had a smoke of opium. He had no money with him, and he borrowed ten cents from one man and a couple of dollars from another, and then started on a walking tour into the interior, where doubtless he thought he would be safe. However, Inspector Stanton had such good faith in this report that he sent the detective U Po and two informers to Shan Chun, which is, we believe, about forty miles up the Canton River. The trip started in a launch from Hongkong on the 16th inst., and after landing at Shan Chun sent back the launch and proceeded on their journey by land. Two days later U Po received information that

Lai Mit was on board a passenger junk bound for Canton and he obtained the services of a few soldiers who went in pursuit. The boat was seen to stop and Lai Mit was put ashore, when he was lost to view in the undergrowth. The party waited patiently, however, and about nine o'clock in the evening the boat came down a creek and it was at once boarded by U Po and the soldiers. As was anticipated Lai Mit was there, endeavouring to sneak away from his pursuers in the very boat from which he had been dropped. The soldiers at once took charge of the murderer and took him to Namtan. The precaution of searching him was taken by the soldiers, but no revolver was found upon him. After doing all that lay in his power the detective returned triumphant to Hongkong, walking the whole way to Kowloon. Of course the police officers are highly pleased with the conduct of U Po, who undoubtedly deserves great credit for his smartness. It is not yet known where Lai Mit will be dealt with, but it is most likely that the Chinese authorities themselves will make short work of him.

A reward of \$500 was offered by the Government for information leading to the arrest of Lai Mit.

THE GREAT COCKLOFT QUESTION.

At the Magistracy on Friday, before Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Chan Yik Chung was summoned by Inspector Reidie for maintaining, without the permission of the Sanitary Board, a cockloft at 92, Winglok Street, where such room was partitioned or divided off into separate compartments. A second summons charged defendant with maintaining an illegal cockloft at 142, Praya Central. Both summonses were heard together. Mr. J. Hastings appeared for the defence.

John Reidie said—I am an Inspector of Nuisances. On the 15th inst. I visited the second floor of 142, Praya Central and 92, Winglok Street. In the first house I found a cockloft, 24 feet 4 inches by 13 feet 2 inches, and 8 feet 4 inches below, and 7 feet 9 inches above. There was one partition under the cockloft extending the whole way up and dividing the space underneath it into two compartments. There was also a partition above the cockloft which extended from wall to wall. In 92, Winglok Street I found a cockloft, 26 feet 2 inches by 12 feet 10 inches. The height below was 8 feet 2 inches and the height above 8 feet. The floor was divided off into two rooms. There were two feet of lattice work from the top of the partition to the under side of the joists. The whole area of the floor of the house at Praya Central was 37 feet 6 inches by 13 feet 2 inches, and of the cockloft 24 feet 4 inches by 13 feet 2 inches. The whole area of the floor at Winglok Street was 37 feet 10 inches by 12 feet 10 inches, and the cockloft was 26 feet 2 inches by 12 feet 10 inches. Permission had not been obtained for the erection or maintenance of cocklofts.

By Mr. Hastings—The partition in 142, Praya Central was used for an opium bed. Trellis work was there. I asked the tenant to remove the partitions. On the 10 inst. I told the people to remove the partitions. I know plans have been submitted together with an application. I have seen a letter dated the 10th inst. (produced) from the tenant of the house enclosing a plan and asking to be allowed to maintain the cockloft. As far as I know, no reply was sent. I went to 92, Winglok Street yesterday and the partition had been removed. At the present time the law is complied with.

Dr. Clark, who appeared on behalf of the Sanitary Board, said that the defendant was requested some time ago to do certain things which would have made the cockloft a legal structure, but he did not do so, and therefore proceedings were taken against him.

Mr. Hastings, for the defence, argued that the tenant had complied with the requirements of the law.

The case was at this stage remanded until Saturday.

When the defendant's name was called no one appeared, and Mr. Hastings said he understood that the defendant was dead. However, the man who appeared on the previous day was the manager of the shop and he would accept liability if the case went against him.

Mr. H. McCallum, Secretary to the Sanitary Board, said that on the 16th June last a man who said he wrote the letter on the previous day called on him and witness explained what was required to be done before the cocklofts would be permitted.

In answer to Mr. Hastings witness said he received the application for permission to maintain the cocklofts on the 10th June. The plan produced certainly showed that the partitions would be removed. The defendant was told last month what to do, but he had not carried out the instructions.

Mr. Hastings said there had been only a technical breach of the Ordinance. At the present time the cockloft at 92, Winglok Street was legal.

His Worship said Mr. McCallum had warned defendant over a month ago that the cocklofts were illegal, and Inspector Reidie had from time to time requested their removal. Nothing, however, was done until the summons was issued. The full penalty, \$25 for each house, would be imposed.

Dr. Clark asked his Worship to order the removal of the cockloft at 142, Praya Central.

Mr. Hastings asked that no such order should be made, as the removal of the opium bed or partition would make the erection quite legal.

His Worship agreed with Dr. Clark and made the order asked for, the removal to be accomplished within twenty-four hours.

Six other summonses were heard against property owners for maintaining illegal cocklofts, and fines ranging from \$10 to \$25 were imposed.

THE POST OFFICE.

The Postmaster-General, Hon. A. R. Travers, in his report for 1895, says:—

The present Post Office is utterly inadequate for the requirements of the colony. So far back as Mr. Lister's time and frequently during my tenure of office the necessity for a new office has been urged upon the Government. (See Postmaster General's reports for 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, and 1893.) The work of the office continues rapidly increasing, and it is hoped that the erection of the new office, which I understand is in contemplation, will be pushed forward with all possible celerity. The rate at which the business of the Post Office is increasing also renders it desirable that the dimensions of the new office should be far in advance of actual present requirements.

I would draw attention to the extreme inconvenience which is caused by the shortness of the stay made at this port by the outward French mail, which frequently arrives on the same morning that the homeward mail leaves, and leaves again the same afternoon after a stay of from 8 to 10 hours. In that time the homeward has to be sorted, the outward mail prepared and despatched, and the Shanghai and Coast and Northern mails sorted. The result is that there is not always time to sort the whole of the Shanghai mail, which has therefore frequently to be despatched only partly sorted. All this inconvenience might be obviated if the French authorities could be induced to allow the mails to be sorted on board the steamer, on her way up from Singapore, by an officer of this department as is done on the English mail. Such an arrangement was actually completed at one time (see my reports for 1889, 1890, and 1891); but the French authorities suddenly withdrew the privilege. I think the time has arrived when the question should be re-opened.

The Agencies at the Coast Ports have been managed satisfactorily, with the notable exception of Hankow, the Agent at which port has given an infinite amount of trouble by his repeated delay in forwarding his accounts and neglect to reply to numerous letters from this office on that and other subjects.

The question of illicit Chinese Post Offices has again occupied the attention of the Government, and a large number of Chinese who were found to be illegally forwarding correspondence to Manila, Haiphong, Bangkok, and other places were warned that from and after the 1st January, 1896, the law would be rigorously enforced, and the exceptionally large sale of stamps in December would seem to indicate that the action taken has proved efficacious.

PROBATES AND ADMINISTRATION

IN 1895.

The following is the calendar of probates and administration granted by the Supreme Court of Hongkong during 1895, exclusive of Chinese estates under \$1,000:—

Name of Testator or Intestate.	Value of Effects.
George William Hayden	\$ 1,300
Helen Christina Joseph	7,900
Thomas Henry Dalby	2,918
Baron Jean Miller Grandmaison	200
Leong Yut Hoi	6,000
Christian Friedrich Rapp	22,372
Ching Kwong Ming	8,000
Ernest Arnold Linck	5,700
Robert Fraser-Smith	1,000
Ng Tun Yuen alias How Qua	10,000
Henry Bridges Endicott	25,200
Charles David Bottomley	92,772
Harry MacDonald Becher	300
Li Yam	3,000
Ng Tat Cho	2,400
George Hughes	£33,130.18.9
Marcus Octavius Flowers	£7,870.17.9
Leung King Ham	4,500
Chan Yuen Koon	9,000
Samuel Walker	11,675
John Copeland	100
George William Snelling	10,500
Henry Steele	6,000
Le Choong	9,300
Robert Lyall	400
Peter Hunter	£16,076.9.8
Wong Tsing Ngan alias Wong Chuen	16,000
José Miguel Victor de Figueiredo	17,000
Li Yik Chi	2,000
Ho Yat Cho	7,000
William Mann	7,800
Alexander Pope Porter	2,250
Tong King Sing	2,500
Yeong Liu alias Yeong U	4,000
Francisco Simao Rangel	2,500
Mak Chan Nam alias Mak Mow Ki	3,500
Sui Shun Kwong	1,750
Cheung Luk U	12,000
Leung Shek Tin	11,000
Chan Ping Tso	35,000
Lum Tai otherwise Lam Nang Mi otherwise Lam Shing Chi	14,000
Shek Ching Chuen	5,900
William Jones	60
William Thomas	2,600
Joaquim das Neves e Souza	6,000
Chow Yung	4,000
Agostinho d'Azevedo	4,000
Wilhelm August Ferdinand Schmidt	4,500
Henry Charles Abbott Harris	6,100
Isaac Bernard	43,902
Alfred Rowe	21,100
John David Kiley	50
Lo Man On alias Lo Siu	3,900
Francis Simpson Ommanney	1,244
William Ross	3,000
George Whitlock	1,414
Januario Antonio dos Remedios	2,200
Yam Wing	8,200
Ng Ho	10,000
David Moncrief Wright	1,500
Lam Hi Ying	67,400
Mok Chi Wing	7,100
Alice Marian Goddard	2,000
Edwin Byrne	2,200
Adolph Alexander Emile Meyer	8,750
Yeong Shuey Lun	140,500
Robert Francis	14,415
Tao Lo Kiu	19,000
Venancio de Aranguren y Larando	14,300
Fan A-Sing alias Fan Yuen Sing	4,200
John Digby French	20
Zachary Brooke Drage	1,450
Hans Christian Heinrich Hoppius	43,000
Charles Sutton	950
Walter George Dickson	22,141
Donald Fraser	2,300
Lau I-Sham	5,000
Gothfried Weber	400
Chow Ping	8,500
Burjorjee Rustumjee Mody	11,000
John otherwise John Huddow Macdonald	61,200
Albert Deacon	3,200
Louis Mendel	9,000

The Russian Volunteer Fleet steamer *Tamboff*, Capt. Ivanovsky, from Odessa, arrived on Saturday, bound to Vladivostok. She has on board 64 passengers, 23 officers, and 775 soldiers. As she passed the French mail steamer *Yarra* at anchor, all the *Tamboff's* passengers assembled on deck and loudly cheered the Frenchman.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT FOR 1895.

The following is the report (condensed) of the Harbour Master for 1895:—

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage entering and clearing amounted to 15,632,113 tons, an increase of 1,883,443 tons over the previous year. There were 36,908 arrivals with a tonnage of 7,827,398 tons, and 36,853 departures of 7,804,715 tons. The increase in European constructed tonnage amounted to 1,056,404 tons, of this a large proportion is to be found under the British flag, partly owing to a new river steamer, the *Wing Tong*, which during the year made 114 round trips and thus accounted for 21,888 tons, partly to the transfer to the British flag during the year of certain vessels, usually flying the "Dragon flag," but 638,631 tons of this increase (or 8 per cent.) represented *bona fide* increased British tonnage. An increase of 245,163 tons is found under foreign flags, chiefly German. Here again the temporary transfer of the ships of the belligerents plays an important part, but here again 147,249 tons (or 5 per cent.) are represented in the more direct manner. The junk trade also shows a very satisfactory increase of 201,576 tons in the foreign trade, and 125,463 tons in the local trade, about 86,000 tons of the former is owing to an additional departmental regulation; the remaining 115,000 tons, however, represents increased trade.

It is an interesting statistical fact that the total tonnage entering and clearing at Hongkong last year (exclusive of local trade) exceeded the 1894 tonnage entering and clearing at London (exclusive of coasting trade) by 775,706 tons, also that, excluding our junk trade altogether, the tonnage entering in 1895 exceeded the 1894 tonnage at Liverpool (exclusive of coasting trade) by 1,036,008 tons, and at Cardiff by 1,047,195 tons; while at Hongkong in 1895 British tonnage alone exceeded the British and Foreign tonnage (exclusive of coasting trade) at Newcastle (the next port in the United Kingdom) by 3,641,524 tons.

The actual number of ships of European construction, exclusive of river steamers, which entered the port during the year was 586, being 336 British and 250 foreign. They entered in the aggregate 3,051 times, making a total collective tonnage of 4,114,403 tons.

The 336 British ships, exclusive of river steamers, that entered the port in 1895 carried 2,410 British officers and 42 foreigners. The proportion of foreigners in British ships was therefore 1.8 per cent, comprising 8 different nationalities. The 250 foreign ships that entered in 1895 carried 1,583 officers, of whom 132 were British. The proportion of Britishers in foreign ships was therefore 8.3 per cent, distributed under three different flags, of which the Chinese takes over 6 per cent.

TRADE.

4,450 steamers, 96 sailing vessels, and 26,554 junks entered during the year, giving a daily average of 85 vessels as against 75 in 1894. (It is worthy of note that on one occasion during the year, viz., at 10 a.m. 5th April, there were in the harbour 241 trading vessels, viz., 69 steamers, 8 sailing vessels, and 164 junks.) For European constructed vessels the average daily entry would be 12.45 as against 11.57 in 1894, and of the steamers arriving 73.5 per cent. were British, including all the river steamers, of which the daily entries averaged 4.09. Having been absent from the colony for about six months of the year under review, I am not in a position to offer any general remarks as to the influences at work during the period, as they appear from the shipping returns to affect the general trade of the colony. It would seem, however, that these influences, whatever they may have been, were disposed favourably towards us. The March quarter of the year showed a net increase over the same period of 1894 in trade as represented by tonnage of 2,333 tons. The half year increased this to 224,371 tons. The nine months ending 30th September brought it up to 845,203, and the year resulted in an increased tonnage credit of 1,883,443.

The Imports and Exports table giving the trade of the port of Hongkong for the year ending 31st December, 1895, shows that 73,761 ships (including junks) of 15,632,113 registered

tonnage discharged 3,485,504 tons, shipped 2,704,974 tons, had 1,623,883 tons in transit, and shipped 387,870 tons of bunker coal, giving a total of 8,202,231. The number of passengers carried was 1,591,073.]

This Department has now, at an infinite amount of trouble and pains on the part of the officers concerned, succeeded (to an extent limited only by the reliability of the information afforded on application) in producing statistics usually only found at ports which have the advantage for this purpose of a Custom-house, and as I remarked on a former occasion "I hope the information may be valued in proportion to the amount of time and trouble expended in its compilation." During the year 9,089 European constructed vessels aggregating 11,525,586 carried 6,569,988 tons, made up as follows:—Import cargo, 2,895,228, export cargo, 1,663,007, transit cargo, 1,623,883, bunker coal shipped, 387,870. The total number of tons carried was therefore 56 per cent. of the total registered tonnage; in the previous year it was 58 per cent., and in 1893 59 per cent.

Imported 2,760,954 tons of cargo as under:—

Articles.	1894.	1895.	In-crease.	De-crease.
Beans	3,995	3,848	...	147
Bones	2,000	2,340	300	...
Coal	562,909	563,767	858	...
Copra	10	...	...	10
Coffee .....	...	500	500	...
Cotton .....	...	50	50	...
Ebony .....	...	400	400	...
Flour	60,250	101,767	41,517	...
Hemp .....	...	1,200	1,200	...
Kerosine (bulk)	31,462	24,450	...	7,012
Kerosine (case)	68,905*	42,601	...	26,304
Lead .....	...	1,350	1,350	...
Oil	3,804	3,348	...	456
Opium	2,825	2,464	...	361
Peas .....	...	1,060	1,060	...
Rattan	625	...	...	625
Rice	619,075	764,368	145,293	...
Salt .....	...	6,250	6,250	...
Saltpetre	50	...	...	50
Sandal-wood	1,625	1,262	...	363
Sapan-wood	1,300	600	...	700
Sulphur .....	...	500	500	...
Sugar	170,499	185,616	15,117	...
Tea	350	20	...	330
Timber	16,040	26,389	10,349	...
Vermicelli	170	800	630	...
General	1,079,676	1,026,004	...	53,672

Total... 2,625,610 2,760,954 225,374 90,030
* 1,929,340 cases. 1,192,828 cases. Decr. 736,512 cases.

The above table shows that the chief increase in imports during the year were in flour (41,517 tons), rice (145,293 tons), sugar (15,117 tons), and timber (10,349 tons), while the decrease is shown in 33,316 tons of kerosine and 53,672 tons under the head of "General." 2,957 steamers measuring 3,999,745 tons and 94 sailing vessels measuring 97,348 tons exported 1,551,184 tons of cargo, and shipped 366,060 tons of bunker coal. Compared with last year, this gives 188 ships more, measuring 498,242 tons, carrying 46,374 more tons of cargo, and shipping 32,809 more tons of bunker coal.

European constructed vessels imported 1,232,221 tons in excess of exports. Junks exported an excess of 451,691 tons. The excess of imports is thus reduced to 780,530 tons; from this must be deducted 366,060 tons of bunker coal shipped (exclusive of that supplied to Her Majesty's ships and foreign men-of-war), leaving a balance of 414,470 tons consumed, manufactured, and in stock in the colony or unaccounted for.

The river steamers, aggregating 3,314,090 tons, imported 134,274 tons of cargo, exported 111,823 tons, shipped 21,810 tons of bunker coal, and conveyed 928,825 passengers, showing an increase under each heading except "passengers," the number of whom carried was reduced by 113,133 for the year.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

	Arrivals.	Departures.
British ships	143,490	165,516
Foreign ships	67,480	57,126
River steamers	478,695	450,130
Launches outside waters of colony	133,398	125,811
Junks (foreign trade)	111,026	107,151
	934,089	905,534

Excess of arrivals over departures (foreign trade)	23,555
Junks, local trade	3,794
Launches	1,964,821 1,978,339

1,971,486 1,982,133.

Excess of departures over arrivals (local trade)	10,647
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Difference excess of arrivals, 17,908

From the above it appears that with a passenger traffic amounting to 5,793,242 during the year, the excess of arrivals in the colony over departures from it, inclusive of all allowance for errors in reporting, amounted to 17,908 or about one-third per cent.

REVENUE.

The total revenue collected by the Harbour Office during the year was \$234,418.29, an increase of 39,242.67 over 1894. The details are as follows:—Lights Dues \$107,315.91. Licences and International Revenue \$34,479.50. Fees of Court and Office \$92,622.88.

STEAM LAUNCHES.

On 31st December there were 139 steam launches employed in the Harbour; of these 59 were licensed for the conveyance of passengers, 63 were privately owned, 12 were the property of the Colonial Government, and 5 belonged to the Imperial Government in charge of the Military Authorities.

EMIGRATION.

73,138 emigrants left Hongkong for various places during the year; of these 58,429 were carried by British ships; 112,685 were reported as having been brought to Hongkong from places to which they had emigrated, and of these 86,663 were brought in British ships.

SUNDAY CARGO-WORKING ORDINANCE, 1891.

During the year 105 permits were issued (exclusive of 42 issued free during the coolie strike) under the provisions of the Ordinance; of these 28 were not availed of owing to its being found unnecessary for the ship to work cargo on the Sunday, and the fee paid for the permit was refunded in each case. Twenty-nine permits were issued free of charge to mail steamers. The revenue collected under this heading was \$11,600; this was \$1,775 less than in 1894, but nearly 50 per cent. more than in any other year since the Ordinance came into force.

SEAMEN.

16,278 seamen were shipped and 17,926 discharged at the Shipping Office and on board ships during the year. 299 distressed seamen were received during the year; of these 59 were sent to the United Kingdom, 12 to Calcutta, 12 to Singapore, 1 to Syney, 1 to Port Said, 8 to Japan, 1 to Shanghai, 9 to Manila, 2 to Bombay, 1 to Saigon, 6 died, 160 obtained employment, 13 remained at Government Civil Hospital, and 4 at Sailors' Home. \$5,832.73 were expended by the Board of Trade in the relief of these men.

MARINE SURVEYOR'S SUB-DEPARTMENT.

The Assistant Marine Surveyor was on leave from 27th May to 20th November. His duties were at first undertaken by the Marine Surveyor in addition to his own. Owing to a breakdown in the health of the latter, it was later on found necessary to engage the service of a local engineer to assist in the work until the return from leave of Mr. Macdonald.

LIGHTHOUSES.

The amount of light dues collected was \$107,315.91. During the year the lighthouses have been maintained as usual. The principal lightkeeper returned from leave; and on the expiration of their three years' agreement, the Gap Rock lightkeepers were permanently engaged on the fixed establishment. On the 8th April the *Polyphemus* went on shore on Jubilee Island during a fog. From the evidence advanced at the Court of Inquiry it was shown that she must have passed within about a mile of the Gap Rock while the fog signal was going without hearing it. Investigation with regard to the audibility of the signal was afterwards made by me and the result reported in my letter of 30th April, 1895. During my absence on leave the "High Explosives" sound signal was abolished in favour of the old-fashioned gun signal. Telegraphic and telephonic communication has been kept up with the Gap Rock and Cape D'Aguilar during the year. From the former

station 488 vessels have been reported as passing and in addition 294 messages were received and 2,199 sent, including the daily weather report for the Observatory. From D'Aguilar 968 vessels were reported and in addition 348 messages were sent and 75 received.

From the 9th of June the telegraph at Gap Rock has been worked by the lightkeepers in accordance with the recommendation of the Signalling Committee, and two Chinese have been engaged as watchmen.

GOVERNMENT GUNPOWDER DEPOT.

During the year 1895 there has been stored in the Government Magazine, Stonecutter's Island, 40,698 cases of ammunition, the approximate weight being 3,005,533 lbs.

On the 31st December, 1895, there remained 4,768 cases, or an approximate weight of 293,264 lbs.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (OPIUM) OFFICE.

The return shows that during the year the amount of opium imported in 1895 was 36,609½ chests, or a decrease of 4,968½ chests. The amount reported was 36,241 chests, or a decrease of 2,737½ chests. Through cargo reported, but not landed, amounted to 16,190½ chests, or a decrease of 6,795½ chests. A daily memo. of exports to Chinese ports was during the year supplied to the Commissioner of Imperial Maritime Customs at Kowloon. Surprise visits were paid to 98 godowns during the year.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SURGEON'S REPORT FOR 1895.

Dr. Atkinson, late Acting Colonial Surgeon, in his report for last year says:—

POLICE.

The year has been a remarkably healthy one as regards the Police force. The total number of admissions to the hospital is by far the smallest during the last ten years; this applies more especially to the European section.

There have been eight deaths amongst the members of the force during the year; one European committed suicide; one Indian and two Chinese died in the hospital; four Chinese died elsewhere whilst on leave.

The accommodation provided in several of the stations for housing the members of the force falls very far short of what I consider necessary to secure the maintenance of the health and vigour of the force. It is satisfactory to note that additional and improved accommodation is being provided near the Central Station, but in addition to this I would call special attention to the insufficient accommodation at Stations Nos. 8 and 9 in the city and those at Hunghom and Tai-tam-tuk in the out-lying districts. I understand that the Captain Superintendent of Police has already represented the necessity of providing new stations to replace the existing Nos. 2 and 7 and the one at Shek O, and pointed out the desirability of providing additional accommodation, including bath-rooms and drying rooms, in the new buildings. I therefore only emphasize the importance of carrying out these projects at an early date, on the completion of which the relief of the overcrowded condition of the Central Station should be considered.

TROOPS.

There has been an increase in the number of admissions to the hospital as compared with 1894, but the percentage mortality is the smallest since 1890. There was a decided increase in the sickness amongst the black troops, admissions to hospital being 1,003 as against 871 in 1894, whilst the total had only increased from 1,309 in 1894 to 1,315 in 1895; the rate of mortality was, however, decidedly less in both the white and black troops, this being more markedly the case with the latter. It is hoped that the improved accommodation recently provided for the Hongkong Regiment quartered at Kowloon will materially increase the health of the troops.

GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The most noteworthy fact has been the great increase in the number of Asiatics admitted, as compared with last year the figures are 1,054 for 1895, as compared with 787 for 1894. This class forms now by far the greatest number of any nationality treated. At times there has been great difficulty in accommodating such cases and many have been refused admission owing to the wards being already full. Endeavours are always made to admit such as seem to require

hospital treatment, but if it is the intention of the Government to provide accommodation to meet the increasing demand additional accommodation must be provided either by erecting an annexe in the locality of the present buildings, or a "Pauper Hospital," as in the Straits, in some locality, unless the project proposed in the Superintendent's report of 1892 is adopted.

The Colonial Surgeon left on the 1st May on 12 months' leave, and I took over the duties of his office during his absence with the exception of the two months from 18th June to 15th August, during which period I was absent from the colony on sick leave and Dr. Lowson relieved me.

Dr. Clark was appointed Assistant Surgeon in this Department on 15th May, and on his arrival in September made himself generally acquainted with local conditions and attended cases in the Government Civil Hospital and Tung Wa. In November he was seconded to the Sanitary Board and since then he has been engaged in work under the Board.

The hospital, I understand, was originally intended for the medical treatment of officers and sailors of the mercantile marine, members of the Colonial Government service, and those suffering from accidents brought in by the Police. Of late years the increase in the number of officers and sailors of the mercantile marine and in the numbers of the persons in the employment of the Colonial Government has materially increased the demand for hospital accommodation. It must further not be lost sight of that officers and men of foreign navies and officers of the troops garrisoned here not infrequently avail themselves of this institution. As previously pointed out, under the above circumstances the admittance of a number of Chinese has to be refused owing to lack of accommodation.

The percentage of deaths to the total number of admissions (4.99) is less than that of the previous year, but, as in 1895, it is above the average of the last ten years. This is due to the fact that many almost hopeless cases have been during these years transferred from the Tung Wa Hospital, as shown by the increased mortality amongst the Chinese admitted, viz., 8.35 per cent. as against 2.47 per cent. in the European. The admissions are by far the largest in any year of the hospital's existence.

The total amount of fees received from paying patients during the year was \$15,395.48.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

There is a decided diminution to report in the number of Europeans under treatment and a marked increase in the Chinese, 76 having been admitted during the year as against 37 in 1894. During the year there were eight deaths. Twenty were transferred to Canton.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS.

Kennedytown Hospital.—This building was handed over to the Department in April, 1895, and is a most valuable adjunct for the treatment of persons suffering from infectious disease. It is situated at the extreme western limits of the city and consists of one two-storeyed block, containing accommodation for 36 patients, together with attendant's room, office and dispensary within the premises, and approached by a covered way are situated the necessary kitchen, stores, mortuary, and out-offices. The concrete yard surrounding the buildings provides suitable sites for the erection of temporary matcheds, which, during the prevalence of epidemics, will be found most useful. There were five cases of smallpox treated there during the year, one of which, that of a man who was admitted in a moribund condition, terminated fatally three hours after admission. There were in addition 40 patients admitted to this hospital during the year; 31 of these proved to be bubonic plague; the remaining nine were removed to this hospital under observation.

Temporary Smallpox Hospital.—In addition to the foregoing cases treated at the Kennedytown Hospital 20 patients suffering from smallpox were treated here, three of which terminated fatally. The fatal cases were those of Chinese foundlings who had not been vaccinated. Two cases of cholera removed from H.M.S. *Rainbow* were treated during the year; neither case ended fatally.

Hospital Hulk Hygiene.—The hospital ship was maintained during the year in a satisfactory condition.

Public Mortuary.—150 bodies were received at the mortuary during the year.

VICTORIA GAOL.

The following table gives the number of admissions to the Gaol and the daily average number of prisoners for the past ten years:—

	Total number admitted to Gaol.	Daily average no. of prisoners.
1886.....	4,600	674.00
1887.....	4,302	584.00
1888.....	3,627	531.00
1889.....	3,705	581.00
1890.....	3,444	566.00
1891.....	5,231	507.00
1892.....	5,046	515.00
1893.....	4,010	458.00
1894.....	3,913	455.00
1895.....	5,014	472.00

These figures show a considerable increase in the number of prisoners, 1,101 more being admitted than in 1894; in only two years in the last ten is this number exceeded. The number of prisoners admitted to the hospital was less than in 1894, the figure being 231 as compared with 271. Of those treated in the hospital 45 were suffering from malarial fever, 24 from anæmia; whilst there were fifteen contused wounds from flogging and 12 gluteal abscesses the result of flogging.

I would submit for consideration the advisability of more frequent floggings of a smaller number of strokes at a time; there was only one case of gluteal abscess the result of flogging in 1894; therefore either the punishment must have been inflicted more vigorously or the subjects were of poorer physique.

Of the 948 cases treated in the cells 508 suffered from contusions the result of floggings, two of which were Europeans. The total number of floggings was 535 as compared with 208 in 1894. Of the others not treated in the hospital venereal and cutaneous diseases, chiefly scabies and ringworm, formed the greater percentage.

There were seven deaths from natural causes, one Chinaman committed suicide by hanging himself in the cell, and two were executed.

TUNG WA HOSPITAL.

The number of cases treated in this hospital during the year was 2,732 compared with 2,354 in 1894; of these 1,457 were discharged, 145 being transferred to the Government Civil Hospital. There were 1,210 deaths, 494 occurring within forty-eight hours of admission. Five cases of smallpox were admitted prior to May; of these one died and four were discharged. 1,939 vaccinations were performed by the native doctors, 188 of these being in the outlying districts. 1,939 vaccinations were performed by the native doctors, 188 of these being in the outlying districts. Many improvements have been effected during the past year. Smallpox cases are no longer admitted for treatment, but are sent to one of the infectious hospitals attached to this Department. The wooden cubicles and the obstructions from the verandahs have been removed, thus promoting cleanliness and admitting more light and freer ventilation to the wards. The patients have been provided on admission with hospital clothing, their own being disinfected. A new mortuary is in course of erection at the extreme southern limit of the hospital premises, provided with quarters for an attendant. Monthly meetings have been held with the Committee attended by the Registrar-General and myself; various recommendations have been made, some of which have been carried out; much, however, still remains to be done.

VACCINE INSTITUTE.

This has been satisfactorily maintained and during the winter was in working order. Lymph was obtained early in October under my superintendence, Mr. Ladds, the Superintendent of the Institute, being away on leave. The stock from which we started our supply was obtained from Dr. Nakagawa in Japan. Owing to Messrs. Watson & Co. having informed me that no further supplies were required early in December last, I have received applications from various medical practitioners and firms, to which I have responded. The results obtained by the civil medical practitioners and public vaccinators have been very satisfactory.

HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

There has been a slight diminution in the number of deaths among the foreign residents,

the percentage of deaths being 2.43 as compared with 2.53 in 1894.

I am afraid that for the purposes of vital statistics the table giving deaths amongst the Chinese is practically worthless. To prove this it is only necessary to compare the return for the last two years; the idea that so many deaths are due to simple continued fever is ridiculous. An improvement in this respect may be anticipated in course of next few years after the passing of the new Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance.

Plague made its appearance again at the end of April, but did not obtain a footing in the colony. How far this was due to climatic conditions and how far to the prompt measures which were taken to deal with the disease, it is impossible to definitely say, but it is satisfactory to be able to report that though isolated cases occurred practically for the rest of the year, there were only 44 cases in all; in every case excepting one, which was under treatment at the end of the year and afterwards recovered, the disease proved fatal, so that the type was evidently of a virulent nature. 31 cases were admitted alive to Kennedytown Hospital, of these one recovered. With the exception of three Portuguese all were Chinese.

Canton was reported practically free of the disease during the year, but Macao was visited with a severe epidemic in the months of April and May.

The system employed was—(1). Isolation of those attacked by the disease at Kennedytown Hospital. (2). Disinfection of the infected houses. (3). Segregation of the people exposed to the infection in large house-boats to the north of Stonecutters' Island for a limited period. That this latter is a most important measure was proved by the fact that cases of plague occurred amongst those so segregated. The period of segregation was fixed at ten days, as the maximum incubation period in the 1894 epidemic was found to be nine days. The extent to which isolation of this nature can be carried out is limited in the event of a large number of cases occurring.

Nearly all the Chinese houses are "tenement houses," every floor consisting of three or four cubicles, each with a family residing therein; the people segregated have been generally those living on the same floor as the person attacked.

Notwithstanding all that has been done during the year, with reference more especially to cleaning basements, removal of cockroaches and cubicles, licensing of lodging-houses, and the increased number of Sanitary Inspectors, no one acquainted with the elements of sanitation and the conditions of filth, overcrowding, and ignorance that exists amongst the majority can hope to see for some years to come those conditions necessary for the maintenance of the public health satisfactorily established in this city.

I am of opinion that the only way to materially improve the present unsatisfactory condition of the town is by the introduction of some such Act into the Ordinances of the colony as the "Housing of the Working Class Act, 1890." The following extract from Whitelegge's "Manual of Hygiene and Public Health" gives the general scope of the Act:—

"Part I. deals with unhealthy areas, and is applicable to urban sanitary districts."

"It is the duty of the Medical Officer of Health to make an official representation to the Sanitary Authority whenever he sees cause to do so, that within a certain area, either (a) any houses or courts are unfit for habitation; or (b) the bad arrangement or condition of the streets or houses, or the want of light, ventilation, or proper conveniences, or any other sanitary defects, are dangerous to the health of the inhabitants; and that the evils cannot be effectually remedied otherwise than by re-arrangement or reconstruction of some or all of the streets or houses."

"The Sanitary Authorities must consider this representation, and if satisfied of the truth thereof, and of the sufficiency of their resources, must declare the area to be an unhealthy one and frame an improvement scheme."

With regard to sanitary legislation, the most important Acts that have been passed during the year are—

1.—By laws providing for the compulsory reporting of certain communicable diseases were

approved by the Legislative Council on 25th November, 1895. This is practically the same as the Infectious Diseases Notification Act of 1889 at home. The object of these by-laws is to obtain early and complete knowledge of all cases of notifiable diseases and information of the particular district in which they occur.

2.—New Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance.—The present unsatisfactory state of the registration of deaths requires early consideration. The obtaining of accurate vital statistics is a matter of great sanitary importance, and I note with satisfaction the intention of the Government to introduce at an early date an amending Ordinance dealing with this subject.

During the year under review all chair and jinricksha coolies applying for licences were medically examined for the first time in the month of December. The result of the examination was as follows:—2,072 men were examined, out of which 124 (6 per cent.) were rejected as unfit for such employment. Each coolie is photographed when he receives his licence, but it is feared that many transfer their licences. The recent introduction of a medical examination before granting a licence, however, affords some protection to the public, who have a right to demand the production of the licence and photograph from the coolie, and it is to be hoped that this right will be exercised and in the event of the description of the holder not answering to that contained in the licence and photograph the case will be reported to the police.

Though there has been an exceptional amount of disease of the nature of malarial fever and in some cases of dengue reported during the year, the statistics, especially of the police and troops, show as compared with previous years a general improvement in the health of the colony.

THE AFFORESTATION DEPARTMENT.

Mr. C. Ford, the Director of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, in his report for last year, says:—

PLANTING.

The total number of trees planted was 55,664. They were placed in various localities extending from Pokfulum Road in the west to Mount Parker in the east, and Stanley in the south. The largest number in one place was at Stanley, in the vicinity of which 14,000 were planted. South of Quarry Bay stands next in order with 10,000 trees. In 1894 the pine trees near Quarry Bay sustained greater damage from the plague of caterpillars than trees in any other locality. Those planted to replace the losses consist of eight kinds, no pines being included.

The road between Aberdeen and Little Hongkong, which is unshaded almost throughout its entire length, has been planted on its margins with shade trees. The Pokfulum Road, also, has received similar attention where required.

THINNING OF PLANTATIONS AND SALE OF FORESTRY PRODUCTS.

Portions of plantations in about 14 localities were thinned. The total amount realized for forestry products was \$657.97.

Protection has become rather more difficult than formerly owing to the commission of depredations being conducted at early hours in the morning and late in evening when it is supposed the forest guards have not arrived on or have left their beats. This has necessitated the adoption of special precautions to deal with the evil. The punishments inflicted by the Magistrates are, I fear, in most cases, far from sufficiently deterrent. A 25-cents fine, or its equivalents of detention in gaol—the latter especially—is, probably, hardly regarded as a punishment. About 1,100 trees were cut down by law-breakers in 1895, being an increase of 500 over the number for 1894. The forest guards obtained 72 convictions, against 92 convictions in the previous year. The fines were \$89.75 as compared with \$145 in 1894. The highest fine was \$5 and the lowest 25 cents. In the previous year the highest was \$25 and the lowest \$1.

FIRES.

There were 51 grass fires during the year and 14,913 trees destroyed by them. The largest fire was at Little Hongkong, where upwards of 9,000 trees were burnt.

At Repulse Bay six coolies were arrested by a Sikh constable for setting fire to grass, which destroyed 650 trees, while they were conducting ancestral worship at graves. Each man was fined \$10.

CATERPILLARS (*Eutricha punctata*, Walk.)

Vigilant observations were maintained for the detection of the re-appearance of caterpillars; early in April they were found in very small numbers in Hongkong in all the districts, except near Chaiwan, where they occurred in such vast numbers in 1894. Hand-picking was commenced on May 25th, and by June 14th all which could be found had been collected and destroyed, the total weight being only 38 catties.

In Kowloon, however, the caterpillars were abundant, and the collection of them and cocoons was continued from June 5th until July 9th, when 912 catties of caterpillars and 39 catties of cocoons were destroyed. A second generation appeared, and operations for their destruction were commenced on August 13th and completed on the 31st, when 1,100 catties of caterpillars and 148 catties of cocoons were collected.

The cost of this work was \$185.92.

So far as Hongkong is concerned, the pest seems to be completely exterminated, as no trace of it has been seen since July 14th, 1895. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for Kowloon; there the caterpillars have been in great abundance this year, about 10 tons have been collected, and a new generation has developed which will require to be dealt with shortly. One satisfactory circumstance this year is that the collectors have seen their way to do the work at a greatly reduced rate.

Last year I accumulated interesting information on parasitical enemies to the *Eutricha* in its different stages. I have now specimens of parasites on the egg, pupa, and larva, but no parasite on the moth has yet been discovered. All the parasites are species of wasp, that on the egg being an exceedingly small one, only about $\frac{1}{4}$ a line in length, another on the pupa is 2 lines, and three others on the same are each about 6 lines long. These were obtained by developing them in boxes.

My thanks are due to Mr. Albert Koebele, the able entomologist, for kindly identifying the genera of the parasites and for assistance in obtaining some of them. Mr. Koebele was staying some time in the colony on a mission to the Far East to obtain parasitical insects for the Honolulu Government, for the purpose of destroying insect pests affecting various crops, a work in which he has been eminently successful in various parts of the world.

It is a curious coincidence that in 1894 the great bubonic plague and the great caterpillar plague occurred in Hongkong, while last year both were nearly absent, and this year they are again greatly in the ascendant.

In 1894 the long-drought was supposed to be, to a great extent, accountable for these plagues, but last year was one of the driest on record, yet the scourges were in subjection, while this year when the bubonic plague and the caterpillars have so greatly increased, there was an unusually heavy rainfall during the first three months of the year.

MYSTERIOUS SHOOTING CASE AT POKFULUM.

The Police are making enquiries about a curious shooting case which occurred at Pokfulum on Saturday afternoon. A little boy, the son of a water carrier at Pokfulum reservoir, was sitting near the caretaker's house, which is near the road leading from the reservoir to the Peak, when he was shot. His loud cries at once attracted attention, and as speedily as possible he was removed to the Government Civil Hospital, where he was detained. He is suffering from a gunshot wound, but fortunately it is not a dangerous one. The police are now trying to find out who shot the child. The case is not looked upon as one in which there was any criminal intent, and it is thought most likely that someone, probably a European, was shooting birds amongst the wood near the caretaker's house, and by a pure accident the little boy received one of the pellets. It is to be hoped that the party responsible for the injury will come forward so that he may be told to exercise greater care in future.

CHINESE PRESENTATION TO DR. MARQUES.

On Sunday afternoon some Chinese friends of Dr. Marques called at his residence and presented him with the following address:—

Hongkong, June, 1896.

To L. Pereira Marques, Esq., Fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, Member of the Royal College of Physicians, &c., &c., &c.

Dear Dr. Marques,—It was with deep regret that we first heard of your retirement on pension from the Government Service of this colony, as we felt that by your withdrawal the public had lost the valuable services of an honourable and most conscientious officer.

For fully fifteen years were you attached to the Medical Department of the Public Service, and during the whole of that period you discharged your various humane and arduous duties, which were oftentimes attended with considerable danger to your own health, to the entire satisfaction of the community at large. You were always skilful and painstaking, kind and considerate in the treatment of your patients, and many there are who can testify with gratitude to your great skill and kindness.

Your constant sympathy with the Chinese and your genuine admiration for their ancient civilization, together with your genial and kind disposition, have attracted to yourself many admirers and friends from that people, and we who are now addressing you do so on behalf and as the representatives of a very large number of our fellow-countrymen.

We cannot allow this occasion to pass by without expressing to you our profound respect and esteem, and as a small token of that esteem and affection we beg you to kindly accept the accompanying souvenir with our best wishes for your future happiness, health, and prosperity.—We are, dear Dr. Marques, yours very sincerely,

Joseph Li
Tsung Sz Kai
Kaw Hong Take
Shi Ping Kwong
Li Hong Mi
Wong Shing
Tang Kit Shang
Ho Tung
Choa Chee Bee
Ho Wyson
Wong Chi Nam
Wong Yat Sun
Sin Tak Fan
Ho Kai
Ho Fook
Cheung Hoi

Lau Wai Chuen
Ng Kwai Shang
W. Quincey
Ng Fuk Shang
Leung Kwai Kai
Fran. Tse Yat
Tam Chun Hing
Leung Pik Shan
Wei Long Shan
Yung Hin Pong
Fung Wa Chun
Chan A Fook
Wei A Yuk
Hung Kam Shing
Chung King Ue
Chan Tseung Fat

The souvenir, which is a handsome massive embossed silver tea set and salver of Chinese workmanship, was much admired and bears the following inscription:—

To Dr. L. Pereira Marques, Fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of Lisbon, Member of the Franco-Hispano-Portuguese Academy of Toulouse, &c., &c. From his Chinese friends as a token of esteem on his retirement from the Public Service on Pension. Hongkong, June, 1896.

The presentation was made in a neat speech by Mr. Ng Fuk Shang, who regretted that the task should have fallen to him instead of the Hon. Ho Kai, whose absence was due to unforeseen circumstances.

After thanking Mr. Ng Fuk Shang for the eloquent and flattering speech he made in presenting the address, Dr. Marques said:—I cannot find adequate expressions to thank you for the great honour you have done me in coming to this house to present me with an address and this beautiful souvenir. It has been asserted that generally it is the unexpected that happens. This imposing manifestation seems to prove the truth of it. It is, indeed, a great surprise to me to receive this mark of esteem from the representatives of the important Chinese community of this colony, gentlemen who are distinguished by their intellectual achievements, by their commercial as well as their social standing, and by many other eminent qualities. Although I have attended very few of you professionally, I have, whenever an opportunity offered itself,

treated the poor Chinese without expecting any reward. It is very kind of you to show in such brilliant manner your recognition of the little I have done for suffering humanity. You have alluded to my genuine admiration for the ancient Chinese civilization. I believe nobody can read the Chinese philosophers without marvelling at their sound and plain doctrines. In my opinion, they are superior to the Greek philosophers that we admired at college. There is an old proverb, that light comes from the East. I believe it might be said with great reason that the high morality comes from the Far East. Confucius is a sublime genius, the glory of mankind. Many theories supposed to be the result of modern civilization were taught by this great man and by his disciples. You will remember that Confucius was asked his opinion about killing the unprincipled for the sake of society. He replied, "Sir, in carrying on the government of a country, why should you shed any blood at all? The relations between the superiors and inferiors is like those between the wind and the grass. The grass must bend when the wind blows across it." Leibnitz, I believe, said that he could transform a society by means of education within twenty-five years. Confucius, who had probably a keener insight into human nature, demanded a much longer period. This sage stated that if virtuous men were to govern a country in succession for a hundred years they would be able to reform the criminals and dispense with capital punishment. Confucius appears to entertain democratic views about government, for he said, when right principles prevail in an empire government will not be in the hands of titled men without merit. Mencius taught that a tyrannical sovereign should, if he persisted in his faults after repeated warnings, be deposed by his people. This disciple of Confucius once asked a king if there was any difference between killing with a sword and with a bad form of government? The Chinese are naturally gifted with great intellectual acumen and the lessons of their famous philosophers have helped to develop the various eminent qualities to a remarkable degree, constituting the national characteristics. The honesty of the Chinese merchants is proverbial. I heard my father relate with astonishment that business involving large sums of money was transacted formerly in Canton without any written agreement, but only the word of honour of the parties concerned. There are few working men so steady as the Chinese. But for the Chinese labourers the great Pacific railway could not have been constructed in so short a time. General Booth, of the Salvation Army, observed that the best gardens he saw in Sydney were kept by Chinese. The Chinese by following too faithfully in many respects the doctrines of Confucius, who aspired to an ideal civilisation which the world has not yet attained, and by not being well prepared to repel by brutal force unjust aggressions, have suffered greatly. I hope I shall have an opportunity of studying better this wonderful civilization and perhaps of reading also the Chinese books in the original instead of in translations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTERS AND GAOL PRINTING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR,—In your issue of the 14th July, referring to my annual report of the Gaol, you gave as your opinion that the tables should be printed in the Gaol. While agreeing with you that it would be more expedient if they were first printed in the Gaol as formerly, I must in justice say that the Government printers, I believe, did that work for the last two years without any extra charge, and but for their obliging disposition those tables would have been sent to the Government in unhandy manuscripts.—I remain, sir, yours truly,

L. P. MARQUES.

Late Medical Officer of Victoria Gaol.
Hongkong, 15th July, 1896.

JAPAN TIDAL WAVE RELIEF FUND.

Subscriptions already acknowledged \$3,230

Since received:—

J. W. C.	25
J. M. M. Machado	10
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E. W. Mitchell	\$ 10
D. E. Brown	10
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\$3,600

THE TONKIN MATTING TRADE.

In the bulletin issued by the Tonkin Chamber of Commerce we find a paper addressed to the Chamber by Mr. J. Fourès, the Secretary General of the Colony, on the matting trade in Tonkin and the proper means to develop it. Before 1891 the exportation of mats from Tonkin was almost nil. It is only since that period that Tonkin has commenced to export in small quantities; since then the exportation has gradually increased each year. For the year 1895 the export may be estimated at 10,670 rolls. At the present time not only does all the matting manufactured in Tonkin find buyers, but the demand exceeds the supply; the production is insufficient for the needs of consumers.

The mats in question are of good quality, heavy and strong, and also solid and durable, but at present somewhat coarse and loose, but these faults could be easily remedied by carrying out certain suggestions given below.

Be that as it may, these mats find so good a market and the cost of bringing them to it is so small, in comparison with the Canton mats, that, notwithstanding the cost of freight by steamer between Haiphong and Hongkong, the transactions which are carried on in them are very remunerative.

In the actual state of things the trade is based on principles absolutely defective, and so the development of the trade is hindered in a large measure. The mats are manufactured in Tonkin, but they can be bought only through Chinese merchants at Canton, with whom contracts are made without the purchasers knowing when the goods can be delivered. If samples are asked for the date on which they will arrive in Canton is unknown. The Canton merchants, instead of posting their letters containing the orders, confide them to their friends and beg them to deliver them in Tonkin. This system results in delays involving considerable loss of time, and so the foreign merchants lose patience, and it happens that often they prefer the Canton article notwithstanding its higher price.

In the Canton province the mats are made from several kinds of reeds and rushes, some of which grow in salt water marshes and others in plains covered at certain times by fresh water. The kind most commonly used is that called *Arundo mitis*. The same varieties no doubt exist in Tonkin, as appears to be shown by the evidence. The Canton reeds and rushes having suffered from

the drought of 1895, they are at present imported from Tonkin in large quantities for the manufacture of mats at Tungkin (west of Canton) and at Lintan, near the West River, about 150 miles to the west of Canton.

The climate of the Tonkin delta is analogous to that of Canton: the nature of the soil is the same in both regions. It logically follows then that the plants which grow in the one part ought equally to grow in the other.

The mats of the Far East are being favoured more and more in Europe and America. The low rate of the dollar, and consequently the cheapness of the mats, places the article within the reach of persons of small means who were unable to buy it formerly owing to its relative dearth. The mat trade is developing rapidly each year throughout the entire world. The following figures show the steady and the gradual growth of the trade in Canton matting with America and Europe for the past five years:—

Year	Rolls	Value *
1891	240,000	\$1,910,000
1892	280,000	2,240,000
1893	320,000	2,560,000
1894	260,000	2,080,000
1895	340,000	2,720,000

* At the average price of \$8 per roll.

The shipments to France are estimated at 20,000 rolls, valued at \$200,000. These figures could be verified at the Havre custom-house, the port by which all the mats enter France. It is to be remarked that in our country people prefer the small mats (ordinary size, 1.829 metres long by 1.371 metres wide) for carpets to the long pieces. (In English the first are called mats, the second matting.)

In 1890 Japan exported 20,000 rolls to America; in 1895 the quantity rose to 150,000 rolls valued at \$1,500,000. It would have been even more considerable but for the China-Japan war, which caused a certain number of workmen to be called to the colours. It must further be added that even in normal times the climatic conditions of Japan are unfavourable to the development of the production of reeds and rushes for the manufacture of mats.

There is room in the European and American markets for Canton, Japanese, and Tonkin matting. The trade in the latter therefore appears to have an assured future and will form an important branch of trade in the Far East. However, to develop it, it will be of consequence not to lose sight of the following suggestions:—

1.—The cultivation of reeds and rushes suitable for the manufacture of matting ought to be undertaken on a large scale in the Tonkin delta, and encouraged by the Protectorate.

2.—Good fertilisers should be used in order to produce fine reeds and rushes. In the province of Canton beancakes of excellent quality are used.

3.—The Tonkin mats are at present slightly coarse, weak, and soft, because they are not submitted when they leave the loom to an operation of pressing or rubbing which the Canton mats undergo, and by which they are tightened, closed, and solidified, and consequently rendered finer and more durable. The following is the operation referred to. The ordinary rolls of matting without seams are uniformly forty yards long and one yard wide; but as they come from the loom they often measure 45 to 50 yards, and the fabric is in parts loose and soft. The roll is then reduced to 40 yards by two workmen placed at each end, who, with their hands, press and rub the fabric. This work is slow and laborious, but it is indispensable in order to obtain a finish to the article. The operation is called "palming" by the English. The mats thus treated are termed "palmed," those which are not, like the Tonkin mats, are "unpalmed."

4.—Under existing circumstances only three kinds of mats are manufactured in Tonkin: at Canton there are numerous kinds, and they can be made from patterns supplied. It is of importance that we should be able to manufacture in Tonkin all the Canton kinds, and those which might be ordered.

5.—The exportation of Tonkin reeds and rushes should be forbidden, and during two or three years, with a view to giving an impetus to the trade, the administration of the custom house

should not be rigorous in the application of the export duty and should give certificates of origin permitting Tonkin mats to enter France at a reduction in the duty under the tariff general.

6.—The Protectorate should, through the medium of the Chambers of Commerce in France and Tonkin, call the most serious attention of French merchants to this important branch of trade. In carrying out this idea samples should be addressed to all French firms interested in the sale of the article. In course of time, when the trade has become largely extended, for instance, when it is three times as great as it is now, a French merchant ought to go to America, the market *par excellence* for mats, in order to see the importers of these articles and learn from them the tastes and the wants of the American buyers.

7.—It appears from information received from a reliable source that any of the foreign firms at Hongkong interested in the matting trade are willing to buy as many rolls of matting from Tonkin as are offered, providing specified dates of delivery are given. This would be, for the moment, an assured opening. Later, on the development of the industry, with the mat trade and the Annam cinnamon trade together, a direct traffic could be maintained by steamer between Indo-China on the one hand and France and America on the other.

It will not be without interest to say a few words regarding the industry and the trade in Japanese mats, which has greatly extended during the last ten years. What has been done in Japan could equally be done in Tonkin.

In 1886 Mr. J. Crawford Lyon, a Baltimore mat merchant of the house of Lyon Brothers and Co., was struck by the artistic talents of the Japanese in weaving reeds, and he asked and obtained, not without difficulty, the support of the Japanese Government in his endeavour to improve that industry. In consequence of a cold winter only one crop a year is grown. (There are two crops in the Canton province). Mr. Lyon had therefore to give his first attention to the cultivation of the material. He chose several southern islands in the Inland Sea which were not exposed to the north winds, and under his advice the Japanese cultivated the plants. He then occupied himself in superintending the weaving and introduced many improvements in it. His efforts were crowned with success and he was rewarded by the Japanese Government. Since then, as we have seen, the trade in Japanese mats has increased in enormous proportions.

The initial difficulties which Japan had to wrestle with are not to be encountered in Tonkin, as the climate is identical with that of Canton and would consequently permit of the cultivation of the reeds and rushes, and two crops a year could be obtained by using good fertilisers. To usefully undertake the industry and the trade in Tonkin mats it is sufficient to have an initiative spirit, energy, and some knowledge of the matter. It is much to be desired that the Indo-China Government should give its support and encouragement to those of our compatriots who resolve to enter into that line and who would thus contribute to increase the value of our possession by extending in a certain measure our commercial relations with the metropolis, Hongkong, and America.

ANOTHER DISASTER IN JAPAN.

THOUSANDS OF HOUSES WASHED AWAY.

While people have not yet recovered from the shock caused by the calamitous waves in the north, says the *Japan Gazette*, another disaster, in the form of floods, probably attended with great loss of life, is reported from Toyama and Shiga prefectures, though the latter prefecture does not seem to have suffered much. The following are the official despatches, given in the *Nichi Nichi's* express, which if brief are quite appalling:—

IN TOYAMA PREFECTURE.

July 7th, 7.36 p.m.—The rain has not ceased since yesterday, and several rivers have overflowed, breaking embankments and roads. The water is still increasing.

July 7th, 8.42 p.m.—The Jogwonji-gawa overflowed to-day. The embankments at Mase-guchi having collapsed, the water dashed into the eastern portion of the city of Toyama,

and washed away 2,831 houses, besides flooding several thousand others. Protection measures are being taken. Damages to the fields are great, and the water has not yet subsided. (Other rivers have also overflowed, but the damages are not yet ascertained.)

July 7th, 9.35 p.m.—By the floods already reported, about 1,850 houses in the city of Toyama are flooded to the depth of several feet above the floor and 120 others below the floor. The Jintsu-gawa has also swollen, having risen 11 feet. Several hundred houses in the western portion of Toyama are also flooded, and the water is still rising.—From the Governor of Toyama-ken.

IN SHIGA PREFECTURE.

July 7th, 3.06 p.m.—Owing to the continued violent rain since yesterday the railway between Kinomoto and Yanagase has been damaged, and the traffic suspended since nine o'clock this morning. Damages are being examined.

July 7th, 4.20 p.m.—The railway traffic between Kinomoto and Yanagase has been reopened.—From the Governor of Shiga-ken.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

TIENTSIN, 8th July.

The state of the Peiho is becoming critical, and if things are left to themselves and Nature proves obdurate much longer Tientsin will cease to be either a seaport or a river port. The river in front of the bund has shoaled up to a depth of five and a half feet instead of the normal twelve to fourteen. The deposit, unlike that of former years, is not soft loess-silt, but a hard sand which forms into stiff banks apparently unsuceptible to the effects of scour or artificial erosion. The shallowness is now such that even the lighters and lightest draft tow-boats are fairly beaten to negotiate it.

The steamers are still working their cargoes at Pu-tang-ke, about twelve miles below Tientsin, but with increasing difficulties even there. The congestion is appalling and to make matters worse, the lighter *Swallow* this week staked herself on the stump of a pile and made what little fairway there is still less.

The Municipal authorities and the local Chamber of Commerce are fully alive to the seriousness of the situation, and on joint account have agreed to get a professional man to obtain the hydraulic data for reference to some expert at home. We do not hear one word of the native river Conservancy moving in the matter, or that the Haeikwan or City *Tous* have shown much concern. They are all probably trusting to the "scour" which sets in after the summer freshets.

Up to date the summer rain has come at intervals, but should there be a three days' down-pour on the hills to the west of Peking nothing can save the whole valley of the Peiho from a disastrous flood, as the constricted river bed is totally unequal to the task of carrying off any surplus.

Our chief source of information as to the course of the Kansuh Mahomedan rebellion is the Southern Press. The official Chinese, if they have any news, are exceedingly costive in setting it about. Locally they have their own anxieties; the soldiers at Shanhaikwan have been going strongly for each other again, but happily have let the foreigners alone, although they have interfered with the train service.

H.M.S. *Peacock* has replaced the popular *Linnet*, which is off to the Behring Sea. The *Peacock* is of course at Tongku, thirty-five miles below Tientsin. Distance has, however, been no serious obstacle to cricket, in which the locals were easily victorious.

The opinion is growing locally that Li Hung-chang will return to his old billet as Metropolitan Viceroy on his return. He has wired out for 150 Double Dragons. These he proposes to distribute galore, as *quæ pro quibus*. Nothing is known up here as to those specific orders which he is said to have placed with the Vulcan Works at Stettin; he certainly left China with no such power, but of course the telegraph could give it. It is suspected up here that the Peking officials are going to distribute their favours internationally re China's new armaments, that Krupp and Armstrong are to share alike re guns. Admiral Dunlop has been cruising about the Gulf in the *Nan Shu*, visiting the various dismantled forts, more especially Port Arthur. He has

been accompanied by Lieut. de Vitre, of the Hongkong Garrison, who is up here on leave. The gallant Admiral is supposed to hold a brief for Elswick, and is now in Peking.

HONGKONG.

The hottest weather of the season so far has been experienced this week. Considerable interest has been manifested in a cure for the plague which Dr. Yersin, a French doctor, claims to have discovered. On Thursday last the Sanitary Board met, and on Saturday the Criminal Sessions opened. The murderer of the Chinese constable has been caught in Chinese territory and he will doubtless be tried by the Chinese authorities.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Inspectors T. Duncan and F. Fisher have been appointed Inspectors of Nuisances.

At Raub, during four weeks ending on the 6th July, about one thousand ounces of smelted gold were realised from 2,550 tons of stone.

H.M. gunboat *Redpole* arrived here from Amoy on the 15th July. The coolie trouble at that port appeared to be over at the time she left.

There were no cases of plague reported on the 15th July, on the 16th there were three cases, on the 17th one case, on the 18th two, on the 19th two, and on the 20th two.

William Claydon, a steward on the steamship *Amarapoor*, was working in a cabin on the vessel on Saturday afternoon when he suddenly fell and expired. He had complained of pains in his head whilst in Japan.

The Chinaman who savagely attacked a passenger on the *Kaisow*, while on a voyage from Singapore to Hongkong, was on the 18th July sent to gaol for six months with hard labour by Hon. Commander Hastings.

At four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon Carl Pasque, second officer on the Danish steamer *Ask*, was taken ill and a doctor was called to see him. The patient was at once removed to the Government Civil Hospital, where he died two hours after admission. The case is supposed to be one of sunstroke.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Jebson & Co.	...	...	...	\$25
W. H. Ray	...	...	...	10
Scheele & Co.	...	...	...	10

In his report for last year Mr. W. E. Crow, Government Analyst, says:—In connection with a charge of circulating counterfeit coins, a number of 20-cent pieces (similar to those of the Canton mint) were forwarded for analysis by the Captain Superintendent of Police. The coins had a specific gravity of 9.689 and contained 45.52 and 52.90 per cent. of silver and copper respectively. The specific gravity of a genuine Canton 20-cent piece was found to be 10.264. From information furnished by the manager of the Canton mint it appears that only 18 per cent. of copper enters into the composition of the 20-cent tokens.

Mr. W. E. Crow, Government Analyst, in his report for last year, speaks favourably of the milk supply of the colony. In some quarters an idea prevails that cows' milk produced locally is inferior in quality to the milk of cows fed in England. The investigations conducted in the Laboratory in past years do not support this contention. In an appendix are given the results of the analyses of 24 specimens of milk from one of the largest dairies under European management in this colony. The samples represent the mixed product of a large number of cows. The authenticity of the milk in each case can be proved. The non-fatty solids vary from 8.7 to 9.5; the fat from 3.1 to 4.2, and the ash from .54 to .75 per cent. These results agree with those obtained by the late Principal of the Somerset House Laboratory and by the analyst to the Aylesbury Dairy Company. A comparison of the averages obtained by these investigators and the average results of the analysis of the Hongkong specimens appears at the foot of the table. In the case of the non-fatty solids, the constituents on which the presence of added water is determined and calculated, it will be seen that the results are practically identical. The method of analysis adopted by the Somerset House chemists has been rigidly adhered to in every instance.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

A fire broke out on the 5th inst. in a theatre in Ching-un district. The theatre, a mat shed erection, was completely gutted. Near by was a small river where a good number of boats coming from other places lay at anchor, having brought passengers for the purpose of viewing the theatrical performances, and two large junks which had brought the actors and about fifty small boats were destroyed by the fire. More than two hundred lives were reported lost and about one hundred persons were injured. The cause of the fire is unknown.

It is said that H.E. Ho Chang-ching, the newly appointed Admiral of Kwangtung, who had an audience of the Emperor and left Peking a few days ago, will arrive at Canton by the end of this month.

The manager of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company at Tientsin has sent a letter to the Manager of the Canton Mint ordering subsidiary coins to the value of forty thousand taels to be sent up to Tientsin every month for the currency there.

Owing to a fight which broke out between the clans of Ku and Chiu in San-ai district, the local Magistrate the other day sent some policemen with a warrant to arrest the leaders of the fight on the Ku side. The policemen, who saw in their errand a chance of obtaining blackmail, broke into a rice shop and arrested the master, who was accused by the policemen as a leader, for he belonged to the clan of Ku. Just as the police were going to drag the poor man to the Yamen, the kaifong people explained to the police his innocence. The police paid no attention to what they said. The kaifong people were in a great rage and arrested all the policemen, who were immediately brought before the local Magistrate, who only gave them a slight punishment. The kaifong people being dissatisfied with the punishment meted out to the police, and being very angry, tried to pull down the yamen. When the frontage was broken down, the Magistrate was in great fear and asked the assistance of a local military officer, who refused to give a helping hand, for he said that the Magistrate had acted illegally. At last the Magistrate's bodyguards came out from the yamen to try to drive the people away and some were wounded by them. The kaifong people have closed all their shops and gone on strike. The case has been reported to the Canton Government, but it has not been settled.

Another fight broke out between the clans of Tsang and Jam, and each party has had a loss of several lives. The local Magistrate tried to stop the fight, but to no purpose. Some soldiers under the command a military officer have been sent to the place from Canton.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 18th July.—Business reported since the 29th ultimo is as under:—

	1896.	1895.
Settlements ...	56,423 ½-chts.	21,768 ½-chts.
Shipments to Shanghai on Native acct.	7,722 "	1,787 "
Consisting of the following Teas:—		

		per picul.
Ningchows ...	10,964 ½-chts. at Tls. 10.00 to 16.50	
Khemuus ...	871 " " 14.00 to 16.00	
Oopacks ...	7,651 " " 7.60 to 11.00	
Oonams ...	16,650 " " 8.40 to 14.75	
Oonfaas ...	19,335 " " 8.85 to 14.00	
Ichang ...	1,452 " " 15.00 to —	

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular last season:—

	1896.	1895.
Hankow Tea.		
Settlements ...	518,637 ½-chts.	637,196 ½-chts.
Shipments to Shanghai on Native acct.	6,049 "	4,164 "
Stock ...	74,758 "	41,777 "
Arrivals ...	599,444 "	683,137 "

	1896.	1895.
Kiukiang Tea.		
Settlements ...	248,455 ½-chts.	297,431 ½-chts.
Shipments to Shanghai on Native acct.	1,673 "	nil.
Stock ...	25,424 "	18,856 "
Arrivals ...	275,552 "	316,287 "

The entire business to date as compared with the corresponding circular last year is as under:—

	1896.	1895.
For London and America	228,000 ½-chts.	229,000 ½-chts.
For Russia	539,093 "	705,627 "
	767,092 "	934,627 "

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	1,778,140	2,588,358
Shanghai and Hankow	10,732,416	10,172,453
	12,510,556	12,760,811

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	1,696,955	5,660,319
Amoy	1,458,295	2,770,691
	3,155,250	8,431,010

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	16,584,567	23,212,163

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	5,007,132	11,575,044
Kobe	3,180,870	6,007,903
	12,188,002	17,582,947

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 10th July.—(From Mr. A. R. Burkill's circular.)—London messages of 14th July quote a "firm market," Blue Elephants 10/- and Gold Killing 8/4. Raw Silk.—I have again to report a very quiet week. Moderate settlements only have transpired, but notwithstanding the abstention of buyers prices are very firm here and on a high level in the interior. The second crop is reported to be very short, and this further probable deficit in production has had a natural effect on holders. T'sattees.—About 500 bales have changed hands at quotations. Taysams.—Green Kahings Cicada I. have been settled at Tls. 377. The scarcity of Chuicums and of 9/12 Moss Skeins, etc., continues, and no supplies are likely for some time to come. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns 9th to 15th July, are: 758 bales White, 10 piculs Yellow, and 12 piculs Wild Silks. Filatures.—About 150 bales Hand Filatures have been settled, mostly for forward delivery. Waste Silks.—No transactions to record. Pongees.—The Silk Piece Goods hong have notified an increased price for all makes of White Cloth, but I hear of no transactions. Some 27/28 oz. Shantung have been taken at Tls. 3.50 and Honans of like weight at Tls. 4.40. Settlements are very limited.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	4,094	2,543
Shanghai	2,995	9,553
Yokohama	23	—
	7,112	12,096

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	263	1,575
Shanghai	230	1,263
Yokohama	17	—
	510	2,843

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 21st July.—The market continues weak and prices have further declined. Quotations for Formosa are \$34.50 to \$35.50. During the past week sales have been 170 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 21st July.—The improved demand has continued and a further advance in prices has taken place. Following are the quotations:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.25 to 7.27 per pol.
do. " 2, White... 6.59 to 6.62 "

Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.58 to 4.56 per pol.
do. " 2, Brown...	4.33 to 4.36 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.18 to 7.18 "
do. " 2, White...	6.50 to 6.53 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.43 to 4.46 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.30 to 4.34 "
Soochow Sugar Candy...	10.82 to 10.85 "
Shekloong	9.36 to 9.40 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Peshawar*, Hongkong to London, 16th July, took:—776 boxes Tea (18,923 lbs. Congou, 2,378 Scented Orange Pekoe), 100 bales Raw Silk, 7 cases Silk Piece Goods, 5 packages Sundries; for Gibraltar—10 cases Curries; for France—2 cases Tea, from Foochow, 8 packages Sundries, 808 bales Raw Silk; for Genoa—25 packages Tea, from Foochow.

The American ship *Lucile*, Hongkong to New York, 16th July, took:—15 cases Paper, 24 packages Canes, 33 cases Chinaware, 86 boxes Essential Oil, 200 casks Soy, 200 boxes Saigon Cassia, 359 packages Rattanware, 792 boxes Fans, 1,250 bales Cassialignea, 2,000 bales Broken Cassia, 5,000 packages Firecrackers, 9,693 rolls Matting, 459 packages Merchandise; from Northern Ports.—103 bales Wool, 124 bales Rush-hats, and 584 bales Strawbraid.

The steamer *Achilles*, Hongkong to London, 16th July, took:—4,529 boxes Tea (8,400 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe, 17,371 lbs. Congou, 65,338 lbs. Scented Caper), 46 cases Cigars, 62 M. O. P. Shells, 25 cases Bristles, 200 bales Canes, 9 packages Sundries; for Manchester.—325 bales Waste Silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 21st July.—Bengal.—There has been a heavy decline in prices, owing to large importations. Latest quotations are \$697 for New Patna, \$710 for old Patna, \$717 for New Benares, and \$730 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—There has not been any change in the market for this drug; quotations closing as under:—

New ...	\$730 with all'ance of 1½ to 2 cts.
Old (2½ yrs.)	\$750 " 1 to 2 "
Older	\$760 " 0 to 0½ "
Persian.—Business has been very meagre and rates continue unchanged. Current quotations are \$550 to \$590 for Oily and \$570 to \$640 for Paper wrapped drug according to quality.	
To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—	
New Patna	2,320 chests
Old Patna	270 "
New Benares	340 "
Old Benares	36 "
Malwa	180 "
Persian	80 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
July 16	708½	720	722½	735	730	750/760
July 17	707½	720	722½	735	730	750/760
July 18	707½	717½	722½	735	730	750/760
July 19	707½	717½	722½	735	730	750/760
July 20	700	710	720	730	730	750/760
July 21	697½	710	717½	730	730	750/760

RICE.

HONGKONG, 21st July.—No arrivals have taken place and prices are advancing. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.28 to 2.30
" Round, good quality	2.58 to 2.60
" Long	2.70 to 2.73
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.32 to 2.35
" Garden, " No. 1	2.78 to 2.81
" White	3.15 to 3.17
" Fine Cargo	3.34 to 3.36

COALS.

HONGKONG, 21st July.—Business very dull, very few sales reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$13.25 to — ex godown, nominal.
Australian	6.50 to 6.75 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Lump	5.60 to 5.75 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small	4.85 to — ex ship, do.
Moji Lump	4.25 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 21st July.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—
YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—45 bales No. 6 at \$67, 25 bales No. 8 at \$69

985 bales No. 10 at \$70 to \$79.50, 370 bales No. 12 at \$76 to \$81, 265 bales No. 16 at \$82 to \$88, 900 bales No. 20 at \$91.50 to \$96, 10 bales No. 24 at \$98. *English Yarn*.—5 bales Flower Vase, No. 40 at \$124, 50 bales Red Dragon, No. 40 at \$124. *Grey Shirtings*.—250 pieces 10 lbs. Palace at \$3.15. *T-Cloths*.—1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican V.V. at \$2.82, 600 pieces 8 lbs. X. X. at \$2.87. *Turkey Reds*.—1,200 pieces 14 lbs. Mandarin at \$1.27.

Mirrors.—Iron. 2,000 bundles Nail Rods Belgian No. 1/6 at \$3.25. *Yellow Metals*.—100 cases New Brand 14/24 ozs. at \$26. *Tin*.—100 slabs tinplates at \$38.10.

SHANGHAI, 16th July.—(From Messrs. Nosl, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report).—The market continues in a very quiet condition at least as far as importers are concerned, and it would be difficult to find a week of recent date when there has been less done than during that just closing. The experience seems to be quite unanimous, no matter what the class of goods, business in both spot cargo and for arrival being of trivial nature. The sales reported from stock during the week are small, but there seems to have been some business done in Fine White Shirtings and English Sheetings and Drills for arrival during the end of this year, but as the sales have, for the most part, been made on a sterling basis it is difficult to obtain particulars. The Tientsin dealers, it is said, are not urging the execution of the orders sent down to them recently, but in the meanwhile clearances of their late purchases here are going into consumption there very satisfactorily. This remark applies more particularly to Prints and Fancy Goods, which are being hurried into the interior. We have nothing to report about Newchwang, while the River trade is dull, as usually happens at this time of the year. It is rumoured that some business has been done in American goods for arrival next spring, but no particulars are forthcoming. The market for spot cargo inclines to be weaker.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s report).—17th July.—The dullness continues and the situation has by no means improved since my report, for two native banks have closed their doors as a result of speculation. During the week nothing of any importance has been done in Metals, Nailrods receive no attention and are quoted locally at nearly 10 per cent. under present cost. Pig Iron, Redcar, No. 3, has been offered at 59/- without business resulting and even Old Iron is not receiving any special attention. The only sales are those effected at public auction as below:—50 tons Wire Ropes at Tls. 1.25 to Tls. 1.52; 300 piculs Enamelled Plates at Tls. 1.05; 750 piculs Scrap Iron at Tls. 1.27; 550 piculs Old Round Iron at Tls. 1.82; to Tls. 2.06; 300 piculs Nailrod Iron at Tls. 1.83; 160 piculs Iron Chains at Tls. 1.75; 1,000 piculs Boiler Plates at Tls. 1.60; 100 tons Steel Plate Cuttings at Tls. 1.58 to Tls. 1.86.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 21st July.—Although the market has been somewhat inactive rates have ruled firm with an upward tendency and we have several important rises to chronicle. Buyers at last week's quotations have ruled the market, sellers holding for higher rates, which towards the end of the week were paid.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—A demand in the early part of the week at 185 per cent. prem. was met to a very limited extent and small sales were effected at that rate. The demand continuing and no more shares being forthcoming the rate quickly rose to 187 without business and at time of writing shares could be placed at that rate. The latest London rate is 244. Nationals continue neglected with sellers at \$28, and no business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands at \$78 and \$79. Unions at \$235, and Cantons at \$200. Yangtzes have suddenly declined to \$145 with sales in Shanghai. Straits and other Marines are neglected and without business at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Small sales of Hongkong at \$335 and of Chinas are reported.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled quieter at \$111 with no sales. Luzons have changed hands at \$68, closing with sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao, with shares offering from the North and the Coast, have continued weak and a fair number of shares have changed hands at \$33. At time of writing the market looks firmer, with buyers and no sellers at that rate. The Company will

pay a dividend of \$1.20 on the 1st August for the six months ending June 30th, 1896. Douglases, after a long interval of neglect, were enquired for at the end of the week under review and have changed hands at \$64, closing with buyers at that rate. We have no business to report in other shipping stocks.

MINING.—Punjoms, after ruling quiet all the week with small sales at \$14 and \$14.25, close in some small demand at \$14, with sales. Jelebus have found buyers at \$3. Nothing else to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue to change hands at 187 per cent. prem. in fair lots. Kowloon Wharves, after further sales at \$52, have been negotiated at \$53 and \$54, closing with a few shares offering at the latter rate. Wanchais have changed hands at \$46.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been in good demand and have materially improved their position; sales were effected in the early part of the week at \$73 and later at \$74, \$74, \$75, and \$76, closing firm at the last rate. Hotels have been enquired for, but we have heard of no sales, and the rate has gone up from \$23 to \$26. No shares are obtainable at the latter rate and one or two points higher would doubtless be paid if shares were forthcoming.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Watsons have been done at \$12, and Electric at \$6.75. The Ice Company has declared an interim dividend of 8 per cent. Other stocks under this heading have ruled very quiet and we have no sales to report.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks		[\$358.75, buyers]
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	187 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, pref.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$20, sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$100
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	15s.	\$7, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	\$6
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$6, sales
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$111
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1, buyers
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$5
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$27, sales & sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$17, sales
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$6.75, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$96
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$26, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$103
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$54, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$126, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	187 p. ct. prem. =
Insurance		[\$358.75, sales]
Canton	\$50	\$200, sellers
China Fire	\$50	\$96, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$78, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 195
Straits	\$20	\$27, sellers
Union	\$25	\$235, sales & sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$145, sales
Land and Building		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$76, sales & buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$18, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$68, sales & sellers
Mining		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	72
Jelebu	\$5	\$3, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$2.50
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$24	\$3.50, sellers
Punjom	\$4	\$14, sales & buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3.70, sales
Rauhs	13s. 10d.	\$5.35
Steamship Coys.		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$74, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£3, sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£8.10, sales & sellers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$64, sales & buyers
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$33, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$55, sellers
Wanchai Wareh's Co.	\$37	\$48
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12.50, sal. & sellers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 17th July.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report).—Business has been rather dull during the week, and most stocks show a

downward tendency. **Banks**.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The only transactions reported are cash shares at 183 per cent. premium, and a sale for the 31st August at 183 per cent. premium. Shares were sold this morning at 183, which we quote as the closing rate. **Shipping**.—Indo-China S. N. Co.—There was no business reported, although shares are offering freely on the market. Other Shipping shares are also neglected. **Docks**.—Business has been confined to sales of shares in Boyd & Co. at Tls. 210, and those of S. C. Farnham & Co. at the same price. **Marine Insurance**.—China Traders shares are obtainable at \$79. A sale of North China is reported at Tls. 195. Unions are offering at \$237. Yangtzes have been sold at very irregular rates, \$150 and \$145 on the 11th for cash, on the 13th at \$142 for cash, and \$150 for 31st July, and on the 15th at \$142 for July and \$145 for September. Straits have changed hands at \$27 cash and the same price for the 31st current, and at \$28 for delivery on the 31st December. **Fire Insurance**.—One transaction in Chinas is reported at \$95. **Wharves**.—Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 117, and changed hands to-day at Tls. 120. Hongkong and Whampoa Wharf and Godown shares changed hands at \$52. **Tugs and Cargo Boats**.—Business was done in Shanghai Tugs at Tls. 215, Taku Tug and Lighter shares at T. Tls. 115, and Shanghai Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 206 for delivery on the 30th September. These are offering for cash. **Sugars**.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares have been sold at Tls. 14 cash and the same price for delivery on the 31st current. China Sugar Refining shares were placed at \$110. **Lands**.—Shanghai Land Investment shares have been sold at Tls. 80, with Tls. 50 paid up, but carrying dividend to the 30th June on Tls. 30 only. **Industrial**.—Shanghai Ice shares have been sold at Tls. 115 and are wanted. **Miscellaneous**.—Shanghai Gas shares were placed at Tls. 280 cum, and Tls. 234 ex, the dividend of Tls. 6 paid on the 14th instant. The Shanghai Waterworks Co. have declared an interim dividend of 15 shillings a share, payable on the 25th current at exchange 3/04. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares have been placed at Tls. 90 cash and Tls. 92 for delivery on the 31st current. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 600 cash and Tls. 650 for September delivery. Shares in J. Llewellyn & Co. were sold at \$45, and those of Hall & Holtz were placed at \$33 cash and \$33 for delivery on the 15th August. A. S. Watson & Co. shares were sold at \$12. **Debentures**.—Shanghai Land Investment 5 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 103 plus the accrued interest. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. —\$353.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$29.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$115.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, pref. shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—£2.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 42.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—£3.50.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—£3 1s. 6d.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. —\$33.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$62.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 210.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 210.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$348.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$78.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 195.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$230.
Yangtze Insce. Assocn., Ltd.—\$142.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$200.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$27.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$351.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$95.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 120.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$52.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 34.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$16.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$3.90.
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3.90.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$54.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 210.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 115.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 202.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 44.
 China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$10.
 Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$65.
 Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid).
 Tls. 8.
 Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (Tls. 30 paid).
 Tls. 60.
 Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$71.
 Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$19.
 Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$9.
 Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 44.
 Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 87.
 International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 97.
 Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving
 Co., Ltd.—Tls. 100.
 Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 400.
 Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 155.
 Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 25.
 Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 256.
 Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 90.
 Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 600.
 Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.
 Nominal.
 Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 68.
 J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$45.
 Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$33.
 A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$12.
 Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$8.
 Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$7.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 21st July.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/24
Bank Bills, on demand	2/24
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/24
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/24
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/24
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.78
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.824
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.25
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	534
Credits, 60 days' sight	554
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1864
Bank, on demand	187
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1864
Bank, on demand	187
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	724
Private, 30 days' sight	734
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	14 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	16 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	14 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	8.90
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	46.80

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 17th July (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—During the period under review there has been very little done in exports, either for London or New York, steamers for both ports having left with only poor cargoes. This is partly owing to the dreary state of the tea market. We mentioned in our last that the Pingsuey market was still unopened, and at time of writing there seems to be little prospect of any settlement for sometime; it looked at one time as if the natives were about to give in, and in our opinion they must when they realize the indifferent stand exporters have taken. The coasting trade remains in the dull state that we have had for sometime to report and the outlook is far from encouraging. Rates of freight are:—London by Conference Lines, general cargo 3s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 40s.; Northern Continental ports, general cargo 37s. 6d.; waste silk 40s.; tea 40s.; New York, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s.; Boston, general cargo 45s.; tea 50s.; Philadelphia, general cargo 45s.; tea 50s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Line, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; Hamburg by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; New York, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 40s. less 10% per cent.; Havre direct, general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 22s. 6d. net; Marseilles, tallow 32s. 6d.;

general cargo 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York by sail, 20s. nominal; New York by Pacific Lines, 14 gold cents per lb. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai 90 cents nominal per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai 90 cents nominal per ton coal.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Benlomon (str.), Palawan (str.), Monmouthshire (str.), Sunda (str.), Pekin (str.), Pyrrhus (str.), Euplectela (str.).
 For MARSEILLES.—Maria Rickmers (str.), Balmoral (str.).
 For HAVRE.—Oceana (str.).
 For VICTORIA.—Olympia (str.), Asloun (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—City of Rio de Janeiro (str.), Socotra (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—Com. T. H. Allen, Lucille, Manuel Llaguno, Charles E. Moody, Strathnevis (str.).
 For BALTIMORE.—Isaac Reed.
 For AUSTRALIA.—Changsha (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

July—
 15, Knight of St. John, Brit. str., from S'pore.
 16, Mathilde, German str., from Pakhoi.
 16, Tritos, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Feiching, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 16, Annandale, British str., from K'notzu.
 16, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
 16, Haimun, British str., from Amoy.
 16, Picciola, German str., from Newchwang.
 16, Utrecht, Dutch str., from Singapore.
 16, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 17, Glenearn, British str., from Japan.
 17, Chusan, German str., from Manila.
 17, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
 17, Glenogle, British str., from Amoy.
 18, Tiale, German str., from Canton.
 18, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
 18, Yarra, Chinese str., from Marseilles.
 18, Hinsang, British str., from Moji.
 18, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 18, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
 18, Euplectela, British str., from Norvisiak.
 18, Tientsin, British str., from Amoy.
 18, Tamboff, Rus. volunteer fleet, from Odessa.
 19, Daphne, German str., from Canton.
 19, Feiching, British str., from Canton.
 19, Glenfruin, British str., from London.
 19, Hohenzollern, German str., from Japan.
 19, Independent, German str., from Chefoo.
 19, Martha, German str., from Canton.
 19, Aolus, British cruiser, from Singapore.
 20, Preussen, German str., from Shanghai.
 20, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 20, Arratoon Apar, British str., from C'outta.
 20, Picciola, German str., from Canton.
 20, Panther, Austrian cruiser, from Saigon.
 20, Hoihow, British str., from Chinkiang.
 20, Hydaspes, British str., from Bombay.
 20, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 20, Pakhoi, British str., from Swatow.
 20, Edgar, British cruiser, from Wosung.
 20, Nanyang, German str., from Shanghai.
 20, Sabine Rickmers, German str., from Amoy.
 20, Strathallan, British str., from Amoy.
 20, Jonara, Norw. bark, from Rajang.
 20, Doris, German str., from Newchwang.
 21, Cassius, German str., from Moji.
 21, Senta, German str., from Hamburg.
 21, Melbourne, French str., from Shanghai.
 21, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.
 21, Amigo, German str., from Iloilo.

DEPARTURES.

July—
 16, Lucile, American ship, for New York.
 16, Achilles, British steamer, for London.
 16, Cheang Hye Teng, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Loksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Peshawur, British str., for Europe.
 17, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 17, Inverlay, British str., for Yokohama.
 17, Feiching, British str., for Canton.
 17, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 17, Picciola, German str., for Canton.
 17, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 17, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 17, Rio, German str., for Amoy.
 17, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
 18, Pakling, British str., for Singapore.
 18, Ingraban, German str., for Penang.
 18, Altmore, British str., for Amoy.

18, Chefoo, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Chowtai, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 18, Glenearn, British str., for London.
 18, Strathesk, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Suisang, British str., for Singapore.
 18, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 19, Amara, British str., for Kobe.
 19, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 19, Glenogle, British str., for New York.
 19, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Knight of St. John, Brit. str., for Kobe.
 19, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., for S'hai.
 19, Tiale, German str., for Hongkong.
 19, Utrecht, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 19, Yarra, French str., for Shanghai.
 20, Tamboff, Russian str., for Kobe.
 20, Euplectela, British str., for Nagasaki.
 20, Evandale, British str., for Kobe.
 20, Hoihow, British str., for Canton.
 20, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Tientsin, British str., for Samarang.
 20, Tritos, German str., for Swatow.
 20, Spinaway, Brit. S.M. sch., for Singapore.
 21, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
 21, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 21, Doris, German str., for Canton.
 21, Independent, German str., for Canton.
 21, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.
 21, Preussen, German str., for Europe.
 21, Thales, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Haitan, str., from Coast Ports.—Messrs. L. Suidter, B. Marshall, Van de Stadt, Yu Chi Shan, and Plummer, Dr. Yersin, and Mrs. D. R. Law and child.
 Per Achilles, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Mr. W. Paton.
 Per Zafiro, str., from Manila.—Mr. Wylie.
 Per Haimun, from Amoy, &c.—Mrs. Bathurst and child, Messrs. Kinure and Gok.
 Per Coptic, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mrs. W. F. Hunt, Mrs. Ernest Stonham, Capt. Alex. Tillett.
 Per Yarra, str., from Marseilles, &c.—H. E. Marshal Yamagata, Colonel Ikeden, Messrs. Iuduykide, de Pommeyrac, H. L. Dennys, A. Vander Schuyt, Marquart, M. Khose, and Yeo Wing Yake, and 147 Chinese.
 Per Thales, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Mr. Arthur, Mr. Ng Tai Sung, and 101 Chinese.
 Per Tientsin, str., from Amoy.—Mr. Van Buren.
 Per Glenfruin, str., from London for Hongkong.—Miss Patterson. For Shanghai.—Miss Shadgett.
 Per Chowfa, str., from Bangkok.—Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and 3 children, Rev. Mr. Irwin, and Miss Griffin.
 Per Hohenzollern, str., from Japan.—Mr. E. Georg, Mrs. Batterton-Harker, Mr. O. Klein-schmidt, Master Houghton, Capt. James Renny, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, Messrs. H. Wien and O. Linde.
 Per Arratoon Apar, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mrs. J. E. Hansen, and children, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Green, and Messrs. C. E. Finlayson and Hetting.
 Per Preussen, str., from Shanghai.—Messrs. W. B. Smith, H. Schinhorst, Imhoff, G. Krause, O. Richter, E. Leinbrook, F. L. Love-land, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, and Capt. Sales, Pankow, Miss Bergenann, and Mrs. Kluth.
 Per Hongkong, str., from Hoihow.—Messrs. Pollard, Johnston, Hancock, and Pere Dargon.
 Per Kwanglee, str., from Shanghai.—Wirth's Circus Company.

DEPARTED.

Per Peshawur, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Mr. C. A. S. Palmer. For Penang.—Mr. J. Irving. For London.—Capt. O. Davey, Messrs. W. C. King and C. Maxwell. From Yokohama for Colombo.—Surg. Major McKee. From Kobe for Brindisi.—Mr. G. W. Stitt. From Nagasaki for London.—Mr. G. White.
 Per Achilles, str., for London from Shanghai.—Mr. W. Paton. From Hongkong.—Mr. A. Bertram.
 Per Verona, str., from Hongkong for Yokohama.—Hon. Audley Goble. For Kobe.—Surg. Captain J. S. Edey, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Braidwood. From Singapore for Yokohama.—Mr. W. J. Blackhall.